



## Ask, Father James:

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### Why do the Magi go to Herod? Why didn't the star lead them directly to Jesus?

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. The word epiphany itself means God's revelation of Jesus as divine to the world. The Magi visit to Herod was God's way to reveal Jesus, son of God to the whole world. First, God raised a star in the East, depicting different parts of Asia, Africa, or Europe. Indeed, given that Jerusalem can be seen to be at the intersection of these three great continents. Second, Herod assembled all people of Jerusalem, with the chief priests and scribes and inquired of them where Christ was to be born? This too is an announcement to all people that he has been born. The star then led them to Bethlehem where they worshipped the newborn son of God. There is no indication that the Magi paid Herod homage. Instead, their reverence, homage and worship with gifts were reserved for this child, the one they had been seeking, the one the world had been waiting for. They recognized him... The lesson of Epiphany is that we too should do same. They are called "wise" because they teach us the religiously wise thing to do to Jesus.

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