

**God Steps Down: The Worshipers - Mt. - 12-6-15a**  
**Extra “Musings” for the Sermon for Sunday**

Comparing and Contrasting the Shepherds and Wise Men

Shepherds - sent an angel - a personal word/ announcement

Wise Men - sent a star (not very personal)

Wise men - seeking out

Shepherds - sought out

What would the wise men have done with an angelic message?

Wise men - unbelievers who became believers (star)

Shepherds - already Jewish believers (angels)

**Grace:**

Don't miss the “grace”

Star to wise men - given

Angel to the Shepherds - given

Message found them

then they had to find Jesus (the baby)

On the one hand it's true - God comes to them (not they going to God) - it's also true that when they received the word, they both (wise men and shepherds) went to “check it out”

God's done His part - so what's our part?

Good Christmas/ Bad Christmas

-what makes the difference?

-are we passive in enjoying Christmas?

-is there a part of Christmas that's up to us?

**Communication** - between heaven and earth

-Star language

-Angel language

God speaks a new language here - the message of stars

God gave the message to mistrusted shepherds vs the Pharisees, or an “Isaiah” type. Seems a little “unholy” to me. So does God communicate with the “unholy?”

**Today** - applications

1. Note the “check it out mentality”

-why don't people check Jesus out today - often they say - “well, I know those people at the church, -they aren't any better than I am.”

2. Most would miss a star today... you'd have to look up

- do you ever look at the stars
- 3. Modern scientists would be carried away with a new star - but miss its significance
- 4. Complete absence of any “holly men” - messengers or prophets
  - not till John the Baptist