

January 8<sup>th</sup>,

Epiphany Sunday Meditation

Matthew 2:1-12

“I’m Leaving on a Camel-Plane”

Epiphany Sunday, is a time of revelation, a time when we celebrate the Magi, or the Wise Men’s, visit to Christ. We, who are familiar with the birth story are also aware that this visit occurred approximately two years after the birth of Christ. The wise men came bearing gifts to honor a king.

So of course they went through their possessions and loaded up their camel-planes to make the long journey. Could you imagine packing up your entire life and putting it onto a camel? I may be slightly obsessed with watching HGTV’s Tiny House Hunters but part of that is because I can not see it, living in 300 square feet or less, is difficult for me to imagine. Add in the size of my family and it is NOT happening anytime soon. I do not know about you all but I can barely pack my life up into a suitcase for a week at camp let alone a two year journey on a camel.

But still the Magi did it. They packed up and traveled to honor the King. They were unsure of their journey and even unsure of their destination but they took what they had and gave what they knew. In the life of the church this is a lesson for us to consider in the beginning of the year as we plan and look towards all the ministry we can accomplish over the next, 357 days, and counting. Taking what we have and giving out of what we know.

Last week we made resolutions, not for ourselves but, for the church. Many of them were similar and so we took them and put them into an image of our Church. Take a look:



Is this not a beautiful image of what the hoped for life and mission of our Church is to be during 2017? And one simple word stands out above all others, MORE. So often we forget that our journey's to Christ are on a camel, a slow plodding, maybe get 20-30 miles a day camel. We're not on a jet plane, zipping here and there in a matter of hours, but a camel.

What we have accomplished as we have been re-focusing the mission and ministry of the church is evident in our hoped for resolutions. It is not that we have not begun, it is that we want to do MORE of what we have already begun. This reveals and shines the light of Christ in how we as a church are not wandering aimlessly through the dessert but have a purpose and a mission to accomplish. We have taken up our bags and packed our Camel-Planes. We are a little unsure of the end destination, we are a lot unsure of what we will face on the journey. But we are very sure that in following the light, the star we will honor our Lord.