



Opportunities

Watch this clip (to the end) from the [opening ceremony of the Paralympics](#) from 2012.

Watch these golden athletes challenge us to, 'allow God to love us into the fullness of life praying that our lives will be a blessing to all, in and through all circumstances'.



Watch this [short interview](#) and be Godly-inspired to spread positivity and love this New Year.



Prayerfully worship with: ['We have seen the Light'](#).



Try using [the Daily Examen](#) in your prayer life.



Listen as Malcolm Guite reads: [A Sonnet for Epiphany](#).

Epiphany: The Light in the Darkness



The Adoration of the Magi by Peter Bruegel the Younger (1595)

Epiphany celebrates the revelation and manifestation of Christ the King to the Magi, and, ultimately to the gentile world.

In his autobiography, John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, shares his Emmaus Road (Epiphany) experience like this: 'In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where someone was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before midnight, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death' (John Wesley 1738).

Epiphanies are those 'Aha' moments that simply turn our lives around. Those times when we see and experience something in God's world that turn our lives around full circle. Watching those celebrated Christmas movies such as 'A Christmas Carol' and 'The Grinch', we see peoples lives turned around by something that happens to them. Lives that come to see things in a new way.

When you reflect on your life, what have been the God filled moments where you have experienced something that has changed your life of faith around completely?

The painting above is not your usual Epiphany painting. We are more used to the splendour of the 3 wise men arriving to offer their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh to the newborn Jesus. There is a lot going on in this painting. If you look carefully, you can just about spot the wise men offering their gifts to Jesus in the left of the painting. Otherwise, people are gathering wood, a child is tobogganing on the frozen river, and everyone is trying to keep warm.

Jesus was not born in luxury; he experienced poverty. He experienced life with all its ups and downs. Exceptions were not made for the Son of God. For the artist, Jesus' birth is part of village life. The extraordinary takes place within the ordinary; it is just a matter of recognizing it. Can we sometimes be so busy looking for the supernatural that we do not see God in our everyday lives: at work, at home, and with our families? Reflect on where God has been abundantly present in the ordinary experiences of your daily life this past year.

Further reflection during the epiphany season:

- What is the star you are following in life?
- Are you following the light that leads you to Christ?
- What makes you radiant with joy and hope?

May God Bless you with 'Aha' moments during this Epiphany Season.