

“Faith Matters” - # 27 – In Bethlehem!? – December 24, 2017

You couldn't blame the Wise Men for heading toward Jerusalem
to find the newborn king.

Where else in that region would a king be born?

Certainly not in Rome.

And not in a tiny backwater of a town like Bethlehem.

And most surely no king would be born in a stable, of all places,
a barn, with spiders, fleas and mice and animal dung.

But that's exactly where the infant was born:

the Son of God, the Messiah, the King of kings!

There he is, lying in a trough where cows normally munch their grain.

God was redefining power.

“Blessed are the poor for they shall inherit the earth.”

This King was born not of a queen, or a princess, but of an unmarried woman.

God came in person to be the world's most wonderful Christmas gift –

the ultimate gift that keeps on giving

and dying

and living again.

The King who was, who is, and ever will be

meets us – of all places! – there in Bethlehem,

meets us here, though **we** don't deserve such a gift.

How sad that so many people don't even accept the gift of his birth,

or if they do, don't bother to unwrap it and find out -

find out how much joy and hope and peace he is.

He's the One who can make it

a Merry Christmas!

(by Rev. Willard Pottinger – Erskine Presbyterian Church, Hamilton)