

## Epiphany 2018

You know the feeling that you get when you miss something important? Like missing the big game. By the time you realize that you forgot it – or were too busy – or by the time it sinks in that today's Wednesday and not Tuesday – the game's over and you have to listen to everyone talk about how it was the most amazing game ever.

How about when you are talking to one of your best friends and you say, "What'd you do last night?" and they say they went out for a birthday dinner. And that horrible feeling comes over you – *how could I have missed their birthday?* And you begin turning pages in the calendar in your head as you try to recover with a birthday wish.

Your sitting at your desk at nine in the morning and someone walks by and says, "Good luck today!" It's then that it dawns on you that you have to present to the board what you thought you still had a few days to work on.

You spent the whole week last year when your parents were visiting working late and following kids' activities and so you were feeling guilty. So you cleared your calendar for their visit this year – but you get a call that they're not up to travelling that far and you realize – they may ever be able to again.

2000 years ago the Epiphany was about kings and treasure and incense – it was about a star and a visit to the manger. The epiphany for you and me today is different. It may very well be about us not missing something very important.

After today we take all of this down—maybe that's already happened in your house. And so all that we planned for and all that we waited for is neatly tucked away in a box in the garage – or stuffed in a closet for another year.

And it's easy in the busyness of this season – and in all that follows – to have missed something important. This baby was born in the stillness of night to bring to us the promise of God's love for all time.

A love meant for shepherds and kings – rich and poor – friends and enemies – young and old – people of all color and all mindsets. God's love doesn't discriminate or leave people out – it doesn't judge – this love born in time is a love that ties us forever to our God and the promise that we will live with him forever.

We shouldn't miss this – it's an important truth of our faith that shouldn't be put away with the manger. Our hearts are forever changed – and forever tied together by this baby – by this love – by our God.

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