

Title: Star Gazers
Speaker: Heinrich Titus
Date: 31 July 2011



Love reloaded

Loved, agapao (ag-ah-pah-oh)

Strong's #25: Unconditional love, love by choice and by an act of the will....it does not need a chemistry, an affinity, or a feeling....a word that belongs exclusively to the Christian community. It is a love virtually unknown outside the NT.

Star gazers

Matthew 2:1-3

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

The One behind the star

John 6 :44

⁴⁴You're not in charge here. The Father who sent me is in charge. He draws people to me—that's the only way you'll ever come. Only then do I do my work, putting people together, setting them on their feet, ready for the End.

"Putting people together"

Luke 4:17-19

¹⁷And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: ¹⁸"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

Star gazers who came to Jesus

Star 1: Rejection

Star Gazer: Zaccheaus (Luke 19)

Star 2: Sickness

Star Gazer: Blind Bartholomeo (Mark 10:46)

Star 3: Religious sincerity

Star Gazer: Nicodemus (John 3)

Star 4: Dissatisfaction with wealth

Star Gazer: The rich young ruler (Luke 18)

Star 5: The consequences of sin

Star Gazer: Young adulterers (John 8)

Star 6: a heart of compassion and a work transfer

Star Gazer: Roman Centurion (Matthew 8)

Star 7: Desperate Friendship

Star Gazers: the four friends of the paralytic(Mark 2:4)

Star 8: Mental insanity

Star Gazer: Demon possessed grave dweller(Mark 2:4)

Disillusioned star gazers

Luke 7:20-23

²⁰When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?'" ²¹And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. ²²Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. ²³"And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

Practical steps for today

- I will write a brief gospel account of how Jesus has impacted my life by using Luke 4 and Isaiah 61 as a template.
- I will pray for discernment to see the stars in the lives of the people in my circle of influence.
- I declare myself willing to connect with those stars and use them as pointers to what Christ has done in my life.