

Directions from a Drunk

Actor Michael Keaton told an interesting story on a 2017 episode of the *Late, Late Show with James Corden*.

It was about a strange encounter he had while he was filming a movie in Glasgow, Scotland. Keaton was leaving a restaurant one evening, and he couldn't find his hotel. He was totally lost.

He stopped to ask a passerby for directions. Turned out that the man was totally intoxicated. However, he assured Keaton that he could direct him to his hotel. "Let me in the car and I'll show you," he said.

So Keaton let him in.

The intoxicated man began giving Keaton detailed directions, and Keaton was relieved. The man seemed to know exactly what he was doing, even though he was clearly intoxicated.

So Keaton followed his directions – perfectly.

Did it end up well? Not exactly. He ended up driving the man right to the man's home. The man got out and said, "Thank you," and went inside.

Keaton was left stranded outside in the driveway, still lost and having no idea how to get to his hotel.

The moral of the story? Be very careful who you get directions from. Another good example ...

In the Christmas story we hear every year, including again three months ago, we are told that the Magi astrologers from Persia or Arabia had been searching for the new King of the Jews. While following the super-bright star that marked the presence of the new King, the Magi stopped to ask Herod, king of Judea, for directions. Big mistake!

Herod practically licked his chops when asked to direct the Magi to the birthplace of the newborn King. "And once you find Him, be sure to come back here and let me know where He is, so I can worship Him, too," he advised. Evidently, *worship* and *murder* meant the same to Herod.

The Magi found the baby and worshiped Him, but they returned home by another route, for they had been warned in a dream of Herod's intent. An angel also appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Jesus and Mary and escape to Egypt because Herod planned to kill the Christ child.

(more)

Sure enough, Herod ordered his soldiers to kill all baby boys in Bethlehem two years old and younger to eliminate any chance of a king rising up to challenge his rule.

We are reminded by the experiences of Michael Keaton and the Magi: Be circumspect about the choices we make.

The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way, but the folly of fools is deceiving (Proverbs 14:8 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter

