

# The Dudes at the Dunes - Men's Retreat 2023

## Friday Evening - Rhythm 1 - Pursue - "Follow the Star"

**Psalm 1:1-6**, "1. Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers; 2. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3. He is like a tree planted by streams of water which yields its fruit in season, and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does, prospers. 4. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. 5. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous; 6. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish." New International Version, 1986.

### 1. Introduction.

**Parenting** forces us . . . **Psalm 90:12**, "Teach us to number our days aright that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

**Dad Collins** favorite verses . . . **Proverbs 3:5-6**, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths." **Ephesians 6:4**, "Fathers do not exasperate your children, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

**2012 was a tough year.** Forced me to start **Daily Audio Bible** and **The Brotherhood of The Book**. **2012 to 2014** we went through the book, "*Raising A Modern Day Knight*", by Robert Lewis. **2015** - Read - *Rhythm the Book*. **2016** - Pray - *Talk to Papa*. **2017** - Grow - *Engage the Nudge*. **2018** - Bless - *Be the Blessing*. **2019** - Protect - *Guard Your Heart*. **2020** - COVID. **2021** - Finish - *Stick the Landing*. **2022** - Pursue - *Follow the Star*. **2023** - Read - 1 Peter [www.the-brotherhood-of-the-book.org](http://www.the-brotherhood-of-the-book.org)



## 2. Rhythm 1 - Pursue - *“Follow the Star”*. v. 1 & v. 6.

What does it **mean** to “Pursue”?

“Do not Walk, Stand or Sit with Sin.” vs. Delight, Meditate & Planted in God’s Law.

**Merriam Webster** - “to find or employ measures to obtain or accomplish; to proceed along (a course); to follow in order to catch up with and seize; **to seek**.”

How **fast** should I “Pursue”? **Walk vs. Run**

**Psalm 1** says to not “**Walk, Stand or Sit.**” **Psalm 23** says, “Yeah tho I **walk** through the valley of the shadow of death . . .”. Yet in the New Testament, we begin to hear a change. **2 Timothy 4:7**, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished **the race**, I have kept the faith . . .” **Hebrews 12:1-3**, “Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And **let us run** with perseverance **the race** marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of Faith.” **Old Testament** - “walking with God”. **New Testament** - “running with God”. With both, it’s all about **movement**.

How **often** should I “Pursue”? **Daily**

**Psalm 105:4**, “**Seek** the Lord and his strength; **seek** his presence **continually.**”

Young Beethoven asked his Father why practice daily?! Dad’s response . . . If you don’t practice for three days, you will notice. If you don’t practice for a week, I will notice. If you don’t practice for a month, everyone will notice. How often are you in “Pursuit”? Who is noticing your “Pursuit” and how would they describe it?

What is the **goal** of “Pursue”? **To Win.**

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27**, “You know that many runners enter race, and only one of them wins the prize. So run to win! **Philippians 3:13-14**, “Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do; forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward. **Psalm 1**, God’s blessing & favor.

What am I in “Pursuit” of? **Tourist vs. Pilgrim.** (Brian Harden - DAB)

**Tourist** - travel & memories - block of time - workout - bronze tree & granite bench.

**Pilgrim** - holy & sacred - whatever time - rhythm - Wise Men & stone manger.



Wise Men In "Pursuit" - Holy & Sacred.

**Matthew 2:1-12**, "1. After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, **Magi from the east came to Jerusalem** 2. and asked, "**Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.**" 3. When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 6. " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.' " 7. Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "**Go and search carefully for the child.** As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." 9. After they had heard the king, they went on their way, **and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.** 10. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11. **On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.** Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route."

### 3. The Wise Men - Three Lessons & One Question.

#### 1 - The Wise Men had to "Look Up to Move Forward". v.2, v. 9.

**Psalms 121:1-8**, "1. I lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? 2. My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. 3. He will not let your foot slip - he who watches over you will not slumber; 4. indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. 5. The Lord watches over you - the Lord is your shade at your right hand; 6. the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. 7. The Lord will keep you from all harm - he will watch over your life; 8. the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."

**2 Chronicles 20:12-13**, " 12. Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." 13. All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord."

**Psalms 1:6**, "for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous . . ."

## 2 - They were given a “Direction” not a “Destination.” v. 1, v. 8

**Proverbs 3:5-6**, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths.”

How much information does God have to give you before you go where he leads? A **Tourist** needs a complete **itinerary**. A **Pilgrim** just needs a **direction**.

“Pick at random a score of great saints whose lives and testimonies are widely known . . . I venture to suggest that the one vital quality they had in common was spiritual receptivity. Something in them was open to heaven, something that urged them Godward. Without attempting anything like a profound analysis, I shall say simply that they had spiritual awareness and that they went on to cultivate it until it became the biggest thing in lives. They differed from the average person in that when they felt the inward longing the **did something about it**.”

chapter 5, *The Universal Presence*. “*The Pursuit of God*” by A.W. Tozer

## 3 - They asked questions till they found the “Holy & Sacred”. v. 2

**Matthew 7:7-8**, “**Ask** and it will be given to you; **seek** and you will find; **knock** and door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks **receives**; and the one who seeks will **find**; and the one who knocks, the door will be **opened**.”

## 4 - They asked the One Question that Wise Men Ask . . .

**“Where is he who is born King of the Jews?  
. . . have come to worship him.” v. 2**

Do you remember the first time you came looking for the Savior to worship him? I do.

**Luke 19:10**, “For the Son of Man came to **seek** and to **save** the lost.” **John 3:16**, “For God **so loved** the world that he **gave** his one and only Son, that **whoever believes** in him will not perish, but have everlasting life.” **Revelations 3:20**, “Behold, I stand at the door and **knock**. If anyone hears my voice and **opens** the door, I will **come in** to him and eat with him, and he with me.” **Romans 10:9**, “if you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be **saved**.” **Matthew 20:28**, “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to **serve**, and to **give** his life as a ransom for many.”

**Psalms 1:1,6** “**Blessed** is the man who does **not walk** in the counsel of the wicked, **or stand** in the way of sinners, **or sit** in the seat of mockers; . . . For the **Lord watches** over **the way** of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.”