

Matthew 2:1-12

Wise Men Still Worship the King (The King and His Kingdom)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “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.” ³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

⁶ *‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”*

⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”

⁹ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Amazing – at Christmas – A lot of men even Brave the mall

A) A lot of guys wouldn't be caught dead at the mall – but they go at Christmas time – LOVE your wife
B) AMAZON!!!!

I did read a story about two men though who were going to do the mall thing

A) They came close – they dropped their wives off at the mall – *told them get whatever you want for Christmas*

B) They went down to the harbor to take the one guys boat out for a sail

1) Well they ran into a Huge storm – the boat was capsized – they had to hang on for dear life to the capsized boat waiting to be rescued

C) So there they were being tossed about by the waves holding on for dear life –

1) when the one guy says to his friend

This sure beats shopping at the Mall!

King and Kingdom Series - Jesus is a King to be worshipped -

A) Matthew Chapter 2 – Matthew introduces us to the wise men – MAGI

B) Who were the Wise men?

1) Who they weren't – Misconceptions

- Not from Orient – Babylon – Wed night
- Not 3.... 3 gifts V.3 all Jerusalem troubled
- Not there on Christmas Day v.9 young child

C) **According the Herodotus** – the Greek historian – they came from Mesopotamia – Babylon – Iraq

1) They could have been descendants of the group that Daniel oversaw in Babylon –

D) They specialized in **reading dreams and stars**.

1) They were men of science – men of wealth men of prominence

#1 They came seeking a New Born King

A) The Magi traveled over 1,000 miles looking for this Child –

B) **Think about this: These men had to go on a long, difficult journey.**

1) In our day of jet travel, hard to identify with it, 1,000 miles in 2.5 hrs on a Jet -16 in a car – Oregon

C) **But 1,000 miles in those days traveling** – foot – camel – horse – take over a month.

1) No rest stops – no McDonald's! No Holiday Inns

D) **Cold nights – rough terrain - not easy journey**

1) **Dangerous – Robbers {inspiring and convicting**

Can you imagine how these Gentile magi felt?

A) They had traveled for weeks to worship the newborn King of the Jews.

B) They arrived in the Jewish capital of Jerusalem where the King would someday reign,

1) expecting the city to be all excited over His birth.

C) They began asking, “Where is He? We saw His star in the east.”

1) The street vendor says, “I haven’t heard of any king. But would you like to buy my wares?”

D) They ask others, “Where’s your newborn King?”

1) Only to receive funny looks and shrugs of the shoulders. – Don’t know what you’re talking about.

#2 v.2 They came to worship the New born King

A) Think about this- they went through all that trouble and came all that way – to Worship- Baby

B) They weren’t coming to get something from Jesus.

1) He was only a baby, a toddler there in Bethlehem.

C) Nor were they coming because of what He had done for them; for at that point, He had done nothing.

D) They came to worship Him solely because of who He was.

A Word for some of us – Right here.

A) Do you ever come to church saying, “*Lord, I’m going to worship You because I’ve got this business deal coming down next week, and I need Your help,*”

B) Or, “*I’m feeling depressed, and I know if I worship, I’ll get high emotionally and spiritually?*”

C) I am going to worship – because I need a blessing

D) True There are, indeed, blessings to be found in worship,

1) but they shouldn’t be our motivation to worship.

Why should we worship the Lord?

A) Because He is the King of kings, the Creator of all things, the reason *for* life, the destiny *of* life.

B) **HE IS THE HOLY ONE** – the Bright and

Morning Star.

1) Isaiah 9:6 He is called - **Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

C) **In other words:** An understanding of who Jesus is should be **motivation enough** for us to worship Him.

1) For truly, He is worthy O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power”

D) Too be honest – I consider the story of the wise men – came to worship { **convicting & inspiring** **Convicting because- I can so easily get distracted from Worshipping Jesus.**

A) Caught in a conversation – Hall – Distracted by the sound – too loud – not loud enough

B) Convicted: How far would I travel to come to worship Him.

1) So easy for us – isn’t it – and we take that for granted

C) Convicted – because I can be guilty of only coming to Jesus – to get something –

Inspired: Because when I think about who He is and the fact – He loves me

A) Desires intimacy with me – He likes to hear me sing!

B) My wife – says I’m too loud –

C) John 4 woman at the well – Worship

1) Jesus says in John 4:23 **the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.**

D) That hour is now: God is seeking worshippers

1) Those who understand – **WHO HE IS – AND RESPOND**

E) I want to be that kind of person.

#3 God moves the solar system to make His son Known and Worshipped.

A) This is His Great Goal in all Things - that His Son be Known and Worshipped.

B) Over and over the Bible baffles our curiosity about just how certain things happened.

1) The Christmas Star is no exception. **HIS STAR!**

C) **How did this " HIS STAR! "** get the magi from the east to Jerusalem?

D) It does not say that it led them or went before them.

1) It only says they saw a star in the east and came to Jerusalem.

No ordinary Star – Appears – gone – appears again

A) It leads them to Jerusalem – it turns left and goes to Bethlehem – hovers over a house.

B) Stars don't do that! – What is this?

C) Could be God being God – I am going to have a star do what stars never do

1) Could have been an Angel – DON'T KNOW

D) Rather than getting hung up on how it happened **Instead just be in awe that it happened.** –

1) Because It simply magnifies the greatness and the glory of the plan of God.

Luke shows God influencing the entire Roman Empire so that Caesar Augustus calls For a census

A) At the exact time to get a virgin to Bethlehem to fulfill prophecy with her delivery.

B) Matthew shows God influencing the stars in the sky to get foreign magi to Bethlehem

1) so that they can worship him.

C) It is simply Glorious – God moving men and God moving stars to accomplish His plan.

1) To bring people to the place of seeing His Son – worshipping His Son

That is God's will for everybody in your office at work, and in your neighborhood and in your home. To KNOW JESUS AND TO WORSHIP HIM!

A) At the beginning of Matthew the focus is "come-see!"

B) But at the end the pattern is "go-tell". The magi came and saw. We are to go and tell.

C) Christmas is about – Disconnected – getting connected to God –

1) John 17:3 **And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**

#4 Jesus is troubling to those who do not want to worship Him.

A) The wise men are asking everyone in Jerusalem where is the King that was born –

B) V.3 Tells us that Herod was troubled at this and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled to.

C) Reason: When Herod was troubled – everyone got scared – the Dude was insane.

1) Man of small Stature who wanted to be a big shot – a big man

D) **Master builder** – Wed night look at some of his construction projects – incredible.

He was also a very insecure man. – He came into power through a connection – Mark Anthony and Cleopatra

A) He feared any rival – Killed – wives – relatives and sons – he thought was a threat.

B) Caesar – **Better to be Herod's pig than his son-didn't eat pork**

C) Talk more about all that on Wed night

1) **Madman – Crazy** – so when he was troubled everyone else was worried – unpredictable

D) V.4 gives us insight in to why Herod was troubled

"Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, [Herod] inquired of them where the Christ was to be born."

A) Christ – was the title for the Messiah –

B) Herod recognized – **THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT THE MESSIAH.**

C) Messiah refers to the long-awaited **God-anointed Ruler**, who would overcome all other rule

1) and establish the kingdom of God and never die or lose his reign.

D) The WISE MEN are searching for the final King, to end all kings **and that is the last thing Herod was looking for.**

So he asks the scribes, and the one text that they focus on is Micah 5:2, "And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers

of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel."

A) This is incredible to me- the scribes knew the word

They knew – Prophecy – Micah – Bethlehem

B) Bethlehem is only 5 miles from Jerusalem – and they were not even interested in going to see

1) They were indifferent to go and WORSHIP

C) The wise men traveled 1,000 miles and the scribes who knew the scriptures wouldn't even go 5 miles

Lesson: It is not enough that we know the scriptures Church.

A) Sometimes we think knowing the Scriptures is good enough.

B) But it's doing, not merely knowing the Word, that counts.

1) You and I can easily become like these scribes, saying, "Well, we know what is happening.

C) We know what we should be doing, and that's good enough."

1) No, the blessing is in *doing*, not just in knowing

D) What is important is that we know Him – that the scriptures point to.

1) That we know that we were made to worship him and live in relationship with Him

E) May we not be guilty of the indifference of the scribes and the priest.

Well after hearing from the scribes – Herod secretly calls the Wise men in V.7-8

A) The Scriptures say – Bethlehem – go and when you find him bring word..... worship him too!

B) But Herod has no intention of worshipping – he wants to destroy the child – see on Wed night

1) Horrible tragedy occurs

C) Herod is threatened by Jesus – He is afraid that Jesus is going to take his throne.

D) We can be guilty of not worshipping Jesus the King for the same reason.

1) We don't want to give him the THRONE in our HEARTS

Paul prayed Ephesians 3:17 that Christ would dwell in our hearts through faith

A) Dwell is be at home in our hearts – Our heart is his home – every chamber – every door

B) It is the idea of Jesus being on the throne – not just savior but Lord – fully surrendered

C) But many of us – if we are honest – are slow to give him that place.

1) Afraid to take our hands off the steering wheel and let him drive – not sure we can trust – where we'll end up

We don't want to give him that place of leadership in our marriages –

A) We are afraid – make me do something I am not going to like – Submit to my husband – Trust my wife

B) We fail to let him lead us and really giving him control over our schedules – business

1) We think – I need to control this area

C) We say that He is our king – We worship him as our king – but it is not really true

1) Because we have all these areas in our lives where we fail to acknowledge Him and let him be King!

D) Well Herod sends the Wise men to Bethlehem and notice V.10

#5 The Wise men came Joyfully to worship the King V.10

A) Bethlehem was an unimpressive little village then and is an unimpressive little city still.

B) Bethlehem means House of Bread – perfect place for Jesus to be born

1) Jesus declared in John 6:35 "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." John 6:35

C) This little insignificant town that some have labeled one of the most disappointing tourist destinations –

But because Jesus was born there,

A) More songs have been sung about Bethlehem, more poetry written about, more photographs taken

B)more trips made to this insignificant little city than any other.

1)Bethlehem is one of the best-known places in the world today for only one reason: **Jesus was Born there.**

And so too with you and me. Jesus comes into little people like us

A)People who are somewhat dusty and not at all that impressive—

B)and He makes us great, not because of who we are, but because of *whose* we are. We are His.

C)The wise men – **Men of dignity** – Men of prestige

1)They Joyfully Come to this little insignificant town because Jesus was born there.

#6 The wise men Worshipped Jesus with dignity and with fitting gifts

A)1st - Bowed – V.11 **And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him.**

B) Again, put yourself in the magi's' sandals. They advised the kings of Persia.

1)They were used to living in royal settings.

C)When they started their long journey They must have **had some expectations** about what they would find when they got there.

1)After all, not every king has a star announcing his birth!

D)They went to Herod's palace, but the newborn King wasn't there. "Maybe He's in one of the king's vacation homes.

He's probably surrounded with gold, waited on by many attendants.

A)We can probably stay in one of the guest houses on the grounds."

B)That wasn't the case- they are told to go to this little village 5 miles down the road

1)There is the star hovering over a small common looking house.

C)**No palace – no Royal robes – no attendants** – nothing even hinted of Royalty -

1)They are met by this common working class couple

D)And when they come in and see the Jesus – now about a year and a half

1)Their first response is to bow and worship!

E)Why? **DEITY IN DIAPERS**

Lesson: We can come to God with expectations:

A)We expect him to be a certain way – work a certain way.

B)When he doesn't we get disappointed – sometimes angry –

1)God is saying wait – Will you seek me for who I am - Trust I know what is best

C)Will you Worship me because I am worthy of your heart your praise and your surrender

They worshipped him with fitting gifts

A)Gold – Fitting for a King

Frankincense was a holy oil – very familiar to anyone living near Jerusalem.

A)See it was the fragrance that filled the air around the temple.

B)The smell of Frankincense suggested the pure and beautiful presence of God among his people.

1)It's name means whiteness and typifies purity.

C)Only the priest could make the incense offering to God

1)and it was made daily in the Holy Place or the temple.

D)**Frankincense was a gift fitting for a priest** –

Jesus would be the Final high priest who intercedes on behalf of His people.

1) The meeting place between God and man

What about Myrrh? Myrrh was an anointing oil used for embalming the dead.

A)It was the final smell associated with a lost loved one!

B)This gift though I am sure unbeknownst to the Magi was also very fitting because – Jesus WAS BORN TO DIE!

C)I wonder if Mary thought –What am I supposed to do with that?

**D)Fitting gifts: Gold for a Mighty King,
Frankincense for a Ministering Priest,
Myrrh for a Martyred Prophet.**

Fitting gifts as ACTS OF WORSHIP For us?

A)Our hearts – start there – Jesus be King

**B)But we can also worship Him by the way we use
our Time – our Energy – our Resources**

**C)He is the King who invites us to be a part of His
Kingdom – today - now**