

**Matthew 2:1-12**  
**Lessons from the Wise Men**  
(Majesty in the Manager Series)

Well it is great to see you today, it is great to be together in the Lord's house on Christmas

A) Today we are finishing our Christmas series Majesty in a Manger.

B) We are going to be looking at the account of the wise men who came to worship Jesus.

C) But did you know that didn't happen on that first Christmas morning.

Here is the picture we often see at Christmas - the wise men in the manger scene.

A) They were not there - we will see today in our text - they show up long after - the manger scene

B) They show up after Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus - are living in a house in Bethlehem

C) So more accurate pic - put them in the front yard

D) But the reason I am including them in our series Majesty in a manger -

1) They brought gifts fit for a king.

**Matthew 2**

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, <sup>2</sup>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."

<sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> *'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.'* "

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise

men, determined from them what time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup>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."

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. <sup>11</sup>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.

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

Who were the Wise men?

A) Who they weren't – Misconceptions

➤ Not from Orient – Babylon – Medo- Persia

B) These were men who were skilled in astronomy and astrology,

C) these men were highly revered and respected in their culture

1) and were especially noted for their ability to interpret dreams.

D) If you are familiar with the book of Daniel - these are the type of men who were called on to interpret the dreams of King Neb.

Because of their knowledge of science, mathematics, history, and the occult,

A) Their religious and political influence grew

B) They became the most prominent and powerful group of advisors in the Medo-Persian & Babylonian empires.

C) More than just soothsayers and magicians, they were dignitaries.

1) They weren't kings, but they were men of tremendous importance and wealth.

Another misconception: There weren't 3 of them

A) The Bible doesn't tell us how many - more than one wise men..... Assume 3 because 3 gifts

## Not there on Christmas Day v.11 They came to the house - not the stable

A) They saw the young child - refers to a child who is between 1-2 years old

B) Remember when Herod found out about this Kingly baby born in Bethlehem -

1) All the babies 2 yrs old and younger murdered.

C) So they arrived later in the story - but we can learn so much from these guys

1) In the approach they took to finding Jesus

### Lessons from the Wise men

#### #1 They came seeking a New Born King

V.2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?"

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 - 16hrs 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

2) They were committed Seekers

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

"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."

A) Think about this- they went through all that trouble and came all that way - **to Worship a 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;

1) for at that point, He had done nothing.

D) They came to worship Him solely because of

who He was.

#### 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) Too be honest - I consider the story of the wise men - came to worship { convicting & inspiring

#### #3 The wise men brought fitting gifts to Worship the New born King.

A) Notice their approach - they 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 and Babylon

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)The wise men enter the house – they see the young child – His mother –

E)Their reaction was startling – **THEY FELL DOWN AND WORSHIPPED HIM!**

1)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 – 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

D)Encourage you and me – Make opportunities to pause more often in 2023/ hearts filled with wonder

1)Jesus living in our hearts – **WORSHIP**

**THEY worshipped with Humility and reverence by bowing down**

A)2<sup>nd</sup> They worshipped - By giving fitting gifts

**V.11b And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

A)It was always customary to give a superior gift when you're in a **King's presence.**

B)They recognized He was royalty. Gold was the king of metals and the metal fit for a king.

C)Typically, you'd never appear before an ancient monarch without some gift of gold

**Next gift was frankincense,**

A)Frankincense, was a gum resin that was use by the priests.

B)The priests would offer frankincense with the meal offering.

1)The aroma of frankincense filled the air around the temple.

C)**Frankincense hardens into these little crystals** and it gives off its a sweet aroma scent when you crush it.

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

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

1)He would be crushed at Calvary in order to be our high Priest

**What about the 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 –

1) **Jesus WAS BORN TO DIE!**

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

D)Fitting gifts: gold for a Mighty King, frankincense for a Ministering Priest, 1)myrrh for a Martyred Prophet.

**Fitting gifts and ACTS OF WORSHIP For us?**

A)Humble hearts - He is the King not me

“God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and he will lift you up.” James 4:6, 10

B)Four gifts that Jesus is worthy of - four gifts he doesn't have unless you give them to him

C)#1 Give Jesus your trust.

1)Faith is a voluntary matter.

D)Jesus doesn't have your trust unless you give it to him. - **He will never force it.**

**#2 Give Jesus your heart**

A)Your heart is what you love, what you value, and what you care about most.

B)Jesus declared in Luke 12:34 **“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”**

C)Make Jesus the treasure of your heart!

**Think about the wise men who traveled so far and long to find Jesus.**

**A)God promised in Jeremiah 29:13 <sup>13</sup> And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.**

**B)Hebrews 11:6 tells us that God is the rewarder of those who diligently seek after him.**

**C)He rewards us with more of Himself!**

**D)Make Jesus your treasure and seek him with all of our your heart.**

**Here is another gift we can bring Jesus today**

**A)Give Jesus the first place in your life!**

**B)If anyone or anything holds the first place in your life other than Jesus - it is an idol.**

**C)Give Jesus that first place in your life, in your interest, your relationships, your finances, Schedule**

**D)That is a fitting gift that we can bring to King Jesus**

**Finally Bring other people to Jesus.**

**A)God wants a family more than anything else this Christmas.**

**B)He wants children who choose to love and trust him.**

**C)In the same way that God entrusted the message that his son had arrived in the world to shepherds**

**D)He entrust us with the life changing message of the gospel**

**E)He wants us to be actively sharing that message and seeking to bring others into the family.**

**May this coming year be for us - individuals and as a church - a year**

**A)Where we trust Jesus like never before**

**B)Give him our whole hearts**

**C)Serve him with our whole lives**

**D)Tell as many people as possible about our great King.**