



TO BE WORSHIPED

MATTHEW 2:1-12

I. The magi _____ their lives to worship the King of the Jews.

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, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." vv. 1-2

SEEK THE SAVIOR and don't get _____ by distractions.

"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

II. The magi's quest to worship the King of the Jews was _____ by God's Word.

... and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." vv. 4-6

OBEY GOD'S WORD which will lead you to _____ life.

"But this command I gave them: 'Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.'" Jeremiah 7:23

III. The magi worshiped the true King of the Jews by _____ giving Him gifts.

After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. vv. 9-11

WORSHIP THE KING by opening yourself up to give Him what is most _____ to you.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Romans 12:1



DEVOTIONAL & HOME GROUP STUDY

1. What have you believed in the past about the events surrounding the birth of Jesus that you later found out wasn't true? What was your reaction when you found out?

FOR THIS WEEK

Last week's Scripture memorized:

MATTHEW 1:21

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Journal: Matthew 2:1-12

"Matthew is the only Gospel writer who tells of the visit of the Magi. What familiar elements are—and are not—part of Matthew's account? Most people (including many Bible-believing Christians) get many of their 'facts' about the birth of Jesus not from the Bible itself but from cheap Christmas cards, cute Christmas pageants, traditional Christmas carols and sentimental Nativity sets.

Those wise men were three kings from the Orient . . . just like the song says. They rode three camels by night . . . like all those greeting cards depict. When they arrived at the well-constructed stable, the wise men got a glimpse of the baby's divine halo glowing from the manger. I saw that in a painting. Oh, and their names were Balthasar, Melchior and Gaspar, from Arabia, Persia, and India, respectively (we get that from church tradition) . . . and, as the story goes, their bones are interred in Cologne, Germany. (Don't ask me why.)

Or so we're led to believe. However, when we read Matthew's inspired biblical account, we realize that none of these things are actually taught in Scripture. In fact, these details distract us from the real point of the account of the magi from the east. The truth of the matter is far more insightful and relevant than the layers of legend that have almost smothered the high drama of the narrative of the wise men."

CHUCK SWINDOLL

2. Read Matthew 2:1-12. Why is Herod so disturbed by the news from the magi? What group of people does his reaction represent?

3. How did the Gentile magi react to the appearance of the light God sent? How did Israel's leaders react? Why was this difference significant, and what groups of people do their reactions represent?

4. How do the Magi respond when they find Jesus? What example does their worship provide for us?

5. N.T. Wright noted that

"Jesus the Messiah was born in a land and at a time of trouble, tension, violence and fear. Banish all thoughts of peaceful Christmas scenes. Before the Prince of Peace had learned to walk and talk, He was a homeless refugee with a price on His head. At the same time, Matthew insists that we see in Jesus, even when things are at their darkest, the fulfillment of Scripture. This is how Israel's redeemer was to appear; this is how God would set about liberating His people and bringing justice to the whole world. If he is to be Emmanuel, God-with-us, He must be with us where the pain is."

What comes to your mind when you think of "where the pain is"? How does the coming of the Savior speak to this pain, and what does that say about the character of God?

JOURNAL Matthew 2:1-12

What things tend to distract you during the Christmas season?

Take some time alone in a quiet place to worship Jesus by reflecting on and pondering this passage in Matthew about the coming of Jesus. How can you keep that reflection going over the next few days leading up to the celebration of Christmas?

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. That's a great spot to see what's coming up!

MAKE PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AT CHRIST CHAPEL! Friday, Dec. 24 will be a special day here at Christ Chapel! Come worship with us as we celebrate the birth of King Jesus. Services will be happening all afternoon and evening, so invite friends, family, and neighbors. Stop by the Christmas Eve station in the Great Room today to take a photo, pick up inviter cards and take care of your reservation reminders. You can also head to www.ccbcfamily.org/christmaseve for more info on the celebration.

DATING, ENGAGED, OR NEWLEY MARRIED? AVENUE is a great place to discover God's mission for your relationship and learn practical ways to love and honor one another through life's highs and lows. To learn more visit, www.ccbcfamily.org/avenue and register for the upcoming class that starts Sunday, Jan. 9.

HEY PARENTS, REGISTER YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOLER FOR WINTER CAMP. Happening the weekend of Feb. 11-13, Winter Camp is a retreat for students in Grades 6-8 to talk about relationships, integrity, and sexuality. It will be a fun weekend and a safe place for honest conversations about finding our identity in Jesus. Head to www.ccbcfamily.org/events to learn more and register your student.

RE|ENGAGE YOUR MARRIAGE. re|engage offers hope to marriages by helping couples move toward oneness through stories of grace, teaching and small groups. Classes start Jan. 9, 2022, and you can find registration online at www.ccbcfamily.org/reengage.

BE ONE, MAKE ONE, REACH ONE THROUGH THIS YEAR'S END OF YEAR GIVING. As we have continued to direct our hearts and mission toward reaching the 800,000 individuals in our metroplexes who do not know the Good News, all of your faithful and generous giving for this year's End Of Year Giving will be offered to the Be One, Make One, Reach One steps. Learn more at www.ccbcfamily.org/give.

WOMEN IN THE WORD: A STUDY OF 1 SAMUEL Whether you are experiencing the blessing of joy and hope or a season of tragedy and loss, the story of beautiful, redemptive love is still your story too. This Spring join Women in the Word as we study 1 Samuel and see how the lives of God's people play a part in the story of salvation. To learn more visit www.ccbcfamily.org/ministries/women.

BAND OF BROTHERS: ALIENS AND STRANGERS As disciples of Jesus Christ we are called to live differently than the rest of the world and remember that this place is not our final destination. Join Band of Brothers as we step into a study of 1 Peter and learn how to live out our calling even when it collides with the culture. For more information visit www.ccbcfamily.org/ministries/men.

LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text CCBCFW to 833-422-7200 to get started.