



Lesson 4: WISEMEN – lavish faith (Matthew 2:1-12)

While Mary gave birth to the Messiah most of the world was still stuck in a “bleak mid-winter.” The world didn’t look like a “winter-wonderland” and “jingle bells” weren’t ringing out through the streets. There were no bells ringing from the church tower to announce the birth and no one was rejoicing in this moment. The inn keeper had no room for a weary, pregnant lady and the tax collectors were too focused on shiny coins to notice bright star right above their heads.

This Christmas season, not much has changed. People still are disillusioned with the whole idea of a little baby in a manger. While there may be songs of “peace on earth” there is on peace and their certainly is no more joy than there has ever been. What can you do this Christmas to avoid _____? How can you find true _____ in Christmas?

The answer is found in the story of the wisemen in Matthew 2. From the attitudes of the wisemen and the events that surrounded their journey, we see how we can find true joy this Christmas.

WHAT DO YOU _____? (2:1-2)

Your level of joy is directly related to what you seek.

The wisemen show us how to find true meaning in Christmas by looking for the right thing. Verse 2 tells us exactly what the wisemen sought. They came to Jerusalem and said, “*Where is He that is born King of the Jews?*” The wisemen were not searching for a mere, ordinary, human successor to a throne. They were searching for the final _____, to end all _____.

Christmas for the wisemen was an opportunity to _____ Jesus.

WHERE DO YOU _____? (2:3-9)

We learn from the story of the Magi that there are those who search for Christ in the right places and those who search for him in the wrong places.

A. Near in _____ but far in _____ (v. 4)

Some that are best acquainted with the _____ are practical _____ to it. Of, the agnosticism and apathy that was on display from the chief priests.

- They knew the _____ - v. 5
- They knew the _____ - v. 6

They are quoting from the very Scripture telling of the very place. Yet, there is absolutely no record that these religious leaders took the prophecies seriously and traveled just the _____ miles necessary to get over to Bethlehem.

There is nothing that harms the cause of Christ like the _____!

B. Far in _____ but close in _____

The worship of the Magi implies that God’s redemption goes beyond the Jews. How far did these wisemen travel? It is my contention that they came from _____. They would have read from Babylon’s wisest of wisemen - _____. In reading from Daniel they knew to the date when this one was going to be coming. Daniel 9 gives to us the divine calendar of the coming Christ. These men stopped everything and traveled the _____ to _____ miles to come and see this baby.

WHAT DO YOU _____? (2:10-12)

The wisemen decided to bring with them gifts. They fell down and they worshipping; presenting their treasures to the king.

- Gold – the symbol for a _____
- Frankincense – the symbol of the _____
- Myrrh – the symbol of _____

So it was that the wisemen recognized His _____, His _____, and His _____! They teach us by their lavish faith that we should give our all to this one they call the Messiah.