

Sermon Questions

The Characters of Christmas: Magi and Herod
Matthew 2:1–11
Pastor Jeff Hinds

CONNECT:

- What is one favorite thing about the Christmas season for you?

GROW:

- Read Matthew 2:1-11. List anything you see in the text (and from what you recall from the sermon) that makes it unlikely that the Magi would come seeking Jesus. What does compel them to come (see also Numbers 24:16-17 and John 6:44)?
- Any thoughts as to why the Magi stopped in Jerusalem? What do you think they would expect to encounter there when they mentioned the young King?
- How would you summarize the following responses to news of the young King (be as detailed as you can!):
 - Herod (see also Matthew 2:16)?
 - The chief priests and scribes?
 - The Magi?
- From the responses, what was Herod's primary motivation? What was the primary motivation of the chief priests and scribes? What was the primary motivation of the Magi?
- How powerful is the response of the Magi upon finding Jesus? Is this your attitude when coming to worship? What may impede you from having this type of joy?
- In what ways are we, like the Magi, "untouchables" (see Romans 5:6, 8, 10)? What did King Jesus do for us?
- When you think about King Jesus, what stands out to you most about this description of Him from Colossians 1:15-20?

GO:

- Who do you know who is far from God? Will you pray for that person? How can you point that person to the King of Kings this Christmas season?

Sermon Notes

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1. The account of Herod and the Magi reminds us that God is in the business of reaching those who are far from God. The Magi were false priests in a false religion, but God sent a star to help lead them to Jesus, who became their Savior and Lord (Matthew 2:1–11; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 10:9–10; Ephesians 2:8–9).
2. The account of Herod and the Magi reminds us that knowledge of Jesus alone will not result in salvation. The Chief Priests, the Jerusalem citizens, and eventually even Herod himself had knowledge that the Messiah was coming and would be born five miles away in Bethlehem. However, they responded with alarm and indifference—but not with action. They did not take the time to come, see, believe in, and worship Jesus. Knowledge is never a substitute for saving faith. We must believe in Jesus alone, His death for our confessed and repented-of sins, and His resurrection as evidence of life after the grave. Receive Jesus as Savior and Lord and be granted eternal life (John 3:16; 14:6).
3. The account of Herod and the Magi reminds us that God cares for all people—of all nations—and so must we (Matthew 2:1–4).