



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

If you had to rearrange the letters of your first name to give yourself a new name, what would your new name be?

1. Pastor Tony wanted everyone to notice where the natural and the supernatural “overlapped” in the Christmas story in **Matthew 1:18-2:12**. Where, in your life, have you seen the natural and supernatural overlap?
2. Pastor Tony said, “There’s a difference between seeing something and noticing something.” As you look at your life, what have you noticed God doing, even in the early stages, and how can you cooperate with His activity?
3. “Context is your biggest hurdle to seeing the beauty and value of what is already before you.” Read **John 8:12**. How has following Jesus helped you see the realities of your world in a new light?
4. “God has a way of wrapping His gifts in ways we wouldn’t choose.” Describe a gift you received from God that was initially concealed in some difficult circumstances. What was the outcome?
5. Pastor Tony asked the question, “What if the miracle we want at Christmas is already here?” Think back over the last several years. What miracles have happened in your life that you may need to see in a new light? See **John 8:12**

PERSONAL GUIDE

Day One: Matthew 12; Psalm 101

Day Two: Leviticus 11; Proverbs 8

Day Three: 1 Corinthians 7; 2 Samuel 21

Day Four: 1 John 1; Jeremiah 35

Day Five: Job 39; Acts 17

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner’s Bible Reading System.



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH



Current Series

Message Notes

Christmas
at **Riverside**

Do You See What I See?

Dec 22, 2024 • Pastor Tony Myles

MYRC.CHURCH



MESSAGE NOTES

Do You See What I See?

Dec 22, 2024
Pastor Tony Myles

So what do we do with the question: *Do you see what I see?*

- It first depends on _____.
- Then, it's all about _____ to see.

God's words, through **Matthew 1:18-2:12**

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

"In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote: 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'"

Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

Do you see what I see?

What else does Jesus _____?

Pay attention to the _____ of the natural and the supernatural.

- _____ (see **Matthew 1:18a**)
- _____ (see **Matthew 1:18b**)
- _____ (see **Matthew 1:19**)
- _____ (see **Matthew 1:20a**)
- _____ (see **Matthew 1:20b-24**)
- _____ (see **Matthew 1:25**)
- _____ (see **Matthew 2:1-10**)
- _____ (see **Matthew 2:11-12**)

There's a difference between seeing something and _____.

_____ is your biggest hurdle to seeing the _____ and _____ of what is already before you. (see **Isaiah 5:20, Ephesians 4:18, John 8:12b**)

God has a way of _____ in ways we wouldn't choose.

This Christmas at Riverside:

- Christmas/Christ-mas: A significant _____ of Jesus Christ.
- What if the miracle we want at Christmas is _____?
 - A miracle is a revealing of what's actually _____
 - when a natural _____ is upended supernaturally...
 - and it can be wildly _____ and defyingly _____
 - but it's often personally _____ and completely _____.
- You get to fully enter into Christmas with the full understanding that your full understanding isn't yet fully understanding God, yet you can still fully _____.
- Have you said 'YES!' to the Person of Jesus Christ? (see **Isaiah 55:6-7, Romans 6:23**)

Don't miss this...

Epilogue: There is no _____.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

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MESSAGE NOTES

Do You See What I See?

Dec 22, 2024
Pastor Tony Myles

So what do we do with the question: *Do you see what I see?*

- It first depends on who's speaking.
- Then, it's all about who's being asked to see.

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This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

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Do you see what I see?

What else does Jesus speak?

Pay attention to the bursting overlap of the natural and the supernatural.

- Messiah (see **Matthew 1:18a**)
- Youth (see **Matthew 1:18b**)
- Singleness (see **Matthew 1:19**)
- Awkwardness (see **Matthew 1:20a**)
- Vows (see **Matthew 1:20b-24**)
- Infant (see **Matthew 1:25**)
- Outsider (see **Matthew 2:1-10**)
- Repositioning (see **Matthew 2:11-12**)

There's a difference between seeing something and noticing something.

Context is your biggest hurdle to seeing the beauty and value of what is already before you. (see **Isaiah 5:20, Ephesians 4:18, John 8:12b**)

God has a way of wrapping His gifts in ways we wouldn't choose.

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