

Shut out the Noise of Christmas

Matthew 2:9-12

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”” - Matthew 2:1-2

Main Point: Don't be distracted from coming in contact with Christ this Christmas

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Have you ever been traveling to visit family at Christmas and got detoured or distracted? How much longer did your trip take?

What sounds of Christmas are your favorite? Why?

Every year there's a lot of noise that comes with Christmas: the pressure of families coming to town, buying the right gift for the right person, making sure there's plenty of food, and arranging travel plans. We see a group of men in this passage who set out to celebrate the birth of Christ. But as they were making their way to Jesus they ran in to a lot of noise, a lot of detours that could easily have distracted them from their goal. But our text today demonstrates to us how they were able to shut out the noise of Christmas and keep their focus on Jesus. What can we do to shut out the noise of the season to find Christ in it?

The wise men taught us how to shut out the noise and focus on Christ by:

1) LOOKING FOR JESUS. Read Matthew 2:9-10.

Why do you suppose the wise men went to Herod to inquire about the Messiah? Do you think they were surprised by Herod's response?

The wise men spent numerous months looking for Jesus and never allowed circumstances to sidetrack their mission. Do you feel like you're just too busy to make time for Jesus? What commitments could you change to experience more of Him?

What counterfeit offers in life have you been seeking this Christmas? Ex: More stuff will make you happy; if I get this person the perfect gift they'll love me, etc. What offer does Jesus make us in John 10:10?

2) WORSHIPING JESUS. Read Matthew 2:11.

What emotion do the Wise men experience in v.10? When is the last time you felt this way about an encounter with Christ?

The text says they bowed down to worship Jesus. What do you see is the difference between their encounter with Jesus and that of Herod? Why is this significant?

What does it mean to worship the Lord and how can we do it more? See Romans 12:1-2 for a suggestion.

3) **GIVING TO JESUS. Read Matthew 2:11-12.**

What gifts did the magi present to Jesus? Why were they so valuable and what meaning did they hold?

When was the last time you gave something of value to the Lord? How did it make you feel?

Are you willing to open your treasures to the Lord? What are they and how do you live that out?

Apply It:

What is something tangible you can give/do this Christmas to share God's great gift of love for you? How can you impact the life of another to lead them in worship of the Lord and giving in thanks?

Pray:

Father thank you for the example of the wise men. That you would use pagan men to bring glory and honor to your name is a testament to your power and greatness. Help us seek you in our daily life, giving sacrificially of our time, talents, and possessions to honor you and worship the One worthy of our praise.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

Dec. 24th - Normal service times at 8:45am and 10am

Dec. 31st - Normal service times at 8:45am and 10am

Jan. 14th - VGroups Fair!

Jan. 21st - Discovery Class

Feb. 4th - Super BIG Sunday

If you read this study guide I want to know! Please email jonathan@blythewoodvillage.com for a special message. God bless!