

Wise Men Still Seek Him / Matthew 2:1-12

Who gives a young child some gold, frankincense and myrrh? A toy truck, maybe. Ninja Turtles, possibly. But this stuff? Isn't it amazing that for all these years we have heard this story of "We Three Kings" and know so little about them. What can we learn about this group of magi ... this group of wise men?

1. The magi were most likely _____.

2. The magi were searching for a _____.

3. The magi saw _____ in the sky.

4. The magi humbly _____ the King.

Even Gentiles, foreigners, who were paying attention, knew of His birth.

When you come into contact with Jesus Christ, you leave differently than you came.

Discussion Questions

1. Share about a time you took a long journey to find something or meet someone important. What motivated you to make that trip?
2. Read **Matthew 2:1-12**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. Who do you think the magi were? What background information helps us understand why they might have been looking for a Jewish Messiah?
4. The magi brought three gifts, each with symbolic meaning. What "gifts" can you bring to Jesus this next year? What does it look like to offer Him your worship, your resources, and your life?
5. Herod pretended he wanted to worship Jesus but actually wanted to kill Him. In what subtle ways do people today claim to honor Jesus while actually resisting His lordship in their lives?
6. The wise men "were filled with joy" when they found Jesus. When was the last time you experienced genuine joy in your relationship with Christ? What might be diminishing that joy currently?
7. Patrick said: "You come one way to Him, you leave another way." How has encountering Jesus changed the direction of your life? Share your story with the group.
8. The New Year is a great time to either start fresh with your oikos list, or review it and make some changes. Who needs to be on your oikos list this coming year?

Practical Applications

- **Seek Jesus intentionally** - Set aside 15 minutes daily to read Scripture and pray, asking God to reveal Himself to you more fully.
- **Give sacrificially** - Identify one meaningful gift (time, talent, or treasure) you can offer to Jesus this year in worship.
- **Practice joy** - Each day, write down one reason Jesus brings you joy and thank Him for it.

Scripture References (In order of use): Luke 2:9; Revelation 22:8-9; Isaiah 53:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Referenced Works: Canne, Browne, Blayney, Scott (The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge); Expository Notes on the Gospel of Matthew (H. A. Ironside); The First Christian Primer: Matthew (Bob Utley); The Gospel According to Matthew (Elaine Wainwright); Matthew (Stuart Weber); Matthew (Douglas Sean O'Donnell)

Daily Devotions

Day 1: Seeking with Intention

Reading: *Matthew 2:1-12*

The magi traveled over 500 miles through dangerous territory, driven by a celestial sign and ancient prophecies. Their journey wasn't casual curiosity—it was intentional pursuit. They asked hard questions, invested resources, and risked everything to find the King. Today, consider your own spiritual journey. Are you casually observing Christianity from a distance, or are you actively seeking Jesus? The magi teach us that genuine faith requires effort, sacrifice, and determination. God rewards those who diligently seek Him. What obstacles are preventing you from pursuing Christ more intentionally? What "long journey" is God calling you to take in faith today?

Day 2: Worship Over Convenience

Reading: *Luke 4:8; Revelation 22:8-9*

When the magi found Jesus, they didn't offer casual respect—they worshiped Him as God. This wasn't protocol for meeting royalty; this was divine recognition. Worship is reserved for God alone, yet we often give our highest devotion to careers, relationships, or comfort. The magi's worship cost them time, treasure, and energy. True worship always costs something. It's not about convenience or emotional experiences; it's about recognizing Jesus as King of Kings and surrendering everything to Him. Examine your life today: What receives your best time, thoughts, and resources? Is Jesus truly your King, or just another priority competing for attention?

Day 3: Gifts That Prophesy His Purpose

Reading: *Isaiah 53:1-5*

Gold for a King. Frankincense for a Priest. Myrrh for burial. The magi's gifts were prophetically significant, pointing to Jesus's identity and mission. He came as King to rule, as Priest to intercede, and ultimately to die for our sins. The frankincense, which releases fragrance only when crushed, foreshadows Christ being "crushed for our sins." His suffering wasn't accidental—it was purposeful. The cross wasn't Plan B; it was always the plan. Today, reflect on what Jesus endured for you. His kingship includes sacrifice. His priesthood required His own blood. When you feel crushed by life's circumstances, remember: God can release something beautiful from your brokenness too.

Day 4: Divine Provision in Unexpected Ways

Reading: *Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:25-34*

Joseph and Mary were poor, unable to afford a lamb for Mary's purification offering. Yet God provided exactly what they needed through the magi's gifts—gold to fund their escape to Egypt, sustaining them through years of exile. God's provision often comes through unexpected channels and perfect timing. He knew their needs before they did. You may be facing financial pressure, uncertain transitions, or overwhelming circumstances. Trust that God sees your situation and has already set provision in motion. He may not provide how you expect, but He will provide what you need. The same God who guided magi across deserts to deliver gold is still orchestrating divine appointments for your benefit.

Day 5: Returning by Another Route

Reading: *2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:1-8*

The magi "returned by another route"—both literally and spiritually. An encounter with Jesus always changes your direction. You cannot meet the King of Kings and remain the same. The old life gives way to new life. Former priorities fade as Christ becomes supreme. Nicodemus came to Jesus by night, confused and religious; he left understanding he must be born again. The Samaritan woman came to a well thirsty and ashamed; she left as an evangelist. When you truly encounter Christ, you don't just adjust your behavior—you become a new person. How has knowing Jesus changed your route? Are you still traveling the same path, or has He redirected your life's journey toward His purposes?

Deacons on Call

Cleve Bearden and Marc Traweek

Weekly Events

- **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **SMALL GROUPS:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **DEEP DIVE:** Returns January 14
- **FIRST KIDS:** Returns January 14
- **FIRST YOUTH:** Returns January 14

