

December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

An Unexpected Kingdom  
Matthew 2:1-12

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 (NIV)

## OVERVIEW

- The Magi seek (vv. 1-2)

Magi: a group of astrologers or scholars from Persia or Babylon.

- Herod hunts (vv. 3-8)

Herod: Herod the Great, the founder of the Herodian dynasty.

- The Magi worship (vv. 9-11)

- The Magi return (v. 12)

*God's kingdom isn't built by insiders through power and control but welcomed by outsiders who come in humble worship of the true King — Jesus.*

### The Unexpected Kingdom:

1. An unexpected way to power: \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_ . Matt 20:25-28

2. An unexpected kind of people: \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ in. Matt 8:10

"Jesus didn't come to create a new exclusive club; He came to throw open the doors of God's kingdom to everyone who would come in by faith."  
—N.T. Wright

3. An unexpected response: worship that \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_ . John 4:24

## TALK IT OVER

*Since growth groups take December off, and because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to reach out weekly to someone and discuss the following -*

What stood out most from this message, and why?



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### The Unexpected Kingdom:

1. An unexpected way to power: surrender, not control.  
Matt 20:25-28
2. An unexpected kind of people: outsiders are welcomed in.  
Matt 8:10  
  
"Jesus didn't come to create a new exclusive club; He came to throw open the doors of God's kingdom to everyone who would come in by faith."  
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3. An unexpected response: worship that gives, not gets.  
John 4:24

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