

THE Christmas Carol: Week #3 O Come, All Ye Faithful

December 18, 2022

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

Introduction:

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant! Oh, come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, Born the King of angels; [Chorus]
2. God from true God, and Light from Light eternal, born of a virgin, to earth he comes! Only-begotten Son of God the Father: [Chorus]
3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation; — Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above! Glory to God, Glory in the highest; [Chorus]
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning; — Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n. Son of the Father, Now in flesh appearing; [Chorus]
[Chorus] Oh, come, let us adore him; Oh, come, let us adore him; Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Big Idea: Jesus is a revealer of thoughts and intents of the heart. Your response to Jesus reveals the true condition of your human heart.

1. ***When King Herod interacted with Jesus it revealed the heart of _____ (1-3)***
 - Truth into Action: Herod reminds us that Jesus will reveal a heart of rebellion toward Jesus. **Jesus is the true KING, you are not!**
2. ***The chief priest & the scribe's interaction with the prophecy of King Jesus reveal the heart of _____ (4-8)***
 - Truth into Action: The religious leaders give us an example of indifference—**be wary of its numbing affect upon your life.**
3. ***The wise men overcame barriers to adore King Jesus and model for us the heart of _____ (9-11)***
 - Truth into Action: The wise men teach us that Jesus is for all people--**Remember Jesus will either be your fall or your rescue.**

SERMON CONNECT CARD (Go on the FBC app and complete the digital card at the CONNECT tab or complete a paper card)

- **Which heart do you identify with today:**
 - Herold--the heart of rebellion?
 - Religious leaders—the heart of indifference?
 - Wise men—the heart of worship?
- **How may we help & pray for you?**



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Warm Up: Do you consider yourself a worrier? What causes you the most worry in your daily life? What are your go-to methods for alleviating fear and worry?

1. (1-2) What is surprising to you about the wise men's involvement in God's plan for Jesus' birth? What do you think motivated the wise men to journey so far from home to investigate another religion's Messiah?
 - Who were these wise men? The Greek term ("magi") referred to individuals who held positions of authority for centuries in the ancient Near East. They were not kings, but they counseled kings as important members of the royal courts. The wise men were Gentile dignitaries who traveled hundreds of miles to worship and honor the One born King of the Jews. If the wise men had studied ancient religious texts from the region, they might have been familiar with various Old Testament prophecies about Jesus.
2. What do the wise men reveal about Jesus in their question to King Herod (v. 2)?
 - Their query was a loaded one. First, it assumed the child's birth had already taken place. Second, it implied they were seeking the true heir to the throne of God's chosen people. Finally, the object of their search was no mere infant, but a child of royalty who they intended to "worship" (v. 2).
 - Read Numbers 24:17. Based on this prophecy, what might the wise men have thought about Jesus' mission and purpose?
3. (3-8) Why did Herod run to the chief priests and scribes for answers? When you face challenging situations, do you seek counsel from people who will speak truth or people who will confirm what you want to hear? Explain.
 - The more we love controlling our own lives, the harder it is when we lose control. What is a natural first reaction when your personal "empire" feels threatened?
4. (9-12). What do the wise men teach us about worshiping Jesus? The wise men showed up to worship the new King, and they came bearing gifts. What gifts do you bring to God in worship?