

JOURNEY TO THE MANGER**Week 4**

December 21-22, 2019

Adam Waite

**WARM-UP**

What is your favorite tradition for New Year's? If you don't have one, what was your most memorable New Year's celebration?

Read Matthew 1:18-21

- ⇒ What is the main idea of this passage?
- ⇒ What do you think about these things:
 - What the conversation between Mary and Joseph might have been like.
 - Joseph's initial plan after hearing the news from Mary.
 - What the angel said to Joseph.
 - The way Mary became pregnant.
- ⇒ Is there anything you would like to discuss or clarify in this section?
- ⇒ What does this information mean to you personally?

Read Matthew 1:22-25

- ⇒ What is the main idea of this passage?
- ⇒ Look up Isaiah 7:14 and compare with Matthew 1:23.
 - Describe what you think of when you hear the name "Immanuel."
 - What part of "God with us" (Immanuel) do you think the Jewish people were longing for?
 - Even though they had heard Isaiah 7:14 before, how quick do you think people would have been to believe Mary's story?
 - How do you think you might respond if you were one of the people who heard her story?
 - Describe some examples of how we might hear biblical truth that we have heard before, but it just doesn't "click" with us.
- ⇒ Is there anything you would like to discuss or clarify in this section?
- ⇒ What does this information mean to you personally?

Read Matthew 2:1-6

- ⇒ What is the main idea of this passage?
- ⇒ What do you think about these things:
 - The wise men and their journey.
 - The response of Herod and the people of Jerusalem.
- ⇒ Read Micah 5:2 and compare with Matt.2: 6.
 - Why do you think Bethlehem wasn't the expected place for the "king" to be born?
- ⇒

- ⇒ Do you think Herod knew the prophecy about a Messiah?
- ⇒ Is there anything you would like to discuss or clarify in this section?
- ⇒ What does this information mean to you personally?

Read Matthew 2:7-12

- ⇒ What is the main idea of this passage?
- ⇒ Discuss what you think about these things:
 - Herod's actions
 - The decision of the wise men.
 - The worship and gifts the wise men offered.
- ⇒ Is there anything you would like to discuss or clarify in this section?
- ⇒ What does this information mean to you personally?

NEXT STEPS / ACTION

This wraps up our series "Journey to the Manger." As we think about the last few weeks and the challenges that Pastor Adam has given us, which of these has resonated most with you?

- God uses people who listen.
 - God uses ordinary people.
 - God uses generous people.
 - God uses willing people.
- ⇒ As you have progressed through the last few weeks, what has God changed in you?
 - How has he challenged you?
 - What action steps have you taken?
 - ⇒ How this study affected or changed your outlook of the Christmas season and the birth of Jesus?

This week's message is about being willing to make room for what God calls us to do.

- ⇒ As you think about moving into 2020 and you reflect on this journey to the manger, what change do you see that you need to make so that you have space to say yes to what God wants you to do?

PRAYER

Pray that God would show you clarity of vision as you wrap up 2019 and look forward to 2020. Pray that his will would be done and that his gospel would be carried forward in the ministry that is all because of Jesus, the Messiah—the One who was born in Bethlehem so long ago.

