



5 min Open in prayer

15 min Brief recap of sermon – “True Wise Men – Matthew 2:1-12

• **Introduction**

- The true meaning of wisdom – finding and knowing your Messiah. [*I suggest it is finding the “meaning of life” – a relationship with Jesus (God), and sharing that wisdom with others so they may have the same eternal relationship.*]

• **Matt 2:1 The Coming of the Wise Men (Setting the Stage)**

- Jesus born, Herod the king, wise men (magi) from east, setting is Jerusalem

• **Matt 2:2 The Question of the Wise Men**

- “Where is he?”; Prophecy fulfilled (Num 24:17); they came to worship Jesus

• **Matt 2:3 The Trouble the Wise Men Brought**

- Herod troubled because of competition; Jerusalem troubled because they were not sure how Herod would take out his insecurity and anger on them.

• **Matt 2:4 The Wise Men were Fact Checked**

- In this case, the “wise men” were the chief priests and scribes; Herod wanted to know where Jesus was.

• **Matt 2:5-6 The Wise Men were not Cancelled**

- Religious leaders explain to Herod that another prophecy has been fulfilled (Micah 5:2); these leaders had knowledge but no wisdom because they did not act on the knowledge.

• **Matt 2:7-8 The Wise Men were Called by Herod (A Secret Meeting)**

- Herod met with the magi from the east, asked when the “star” first appeared, sent them to Bethlehem, and asked them to return to tell him where Jesus was.

• **Matt 2:9-10 The Wise Men were Led by the Star Again**

- Magi left Herod, star re-appeared and they followed it, and they rejoiced when it led them to Jesus.

• **Matt 2:11 The Wise Men See, Worship, and Bless the Young Child**

- Jesus was in a house; magi worshiped him and presented Gold (gift for a king), Frankincense (gift for deity – God), and Myrrh (gift for suffering Savior).

• **Matt 2:12 The Wise Men Receive a Divine Warning**

- Magi told in a divine dream to *not* return to Herod; they obeyed and returned home a different route.

• **Conclusion**

- Seek Him, Find Him, Worship Him, Give to Him, Surrender to Him, Serve Him (Jeremiah 29:13, Psalm 95:6)

50 min Discussion Points –

- **Numbers 24:15-17; John 1:14; Galatians 4:4**

Read the verse from Numbers and discuss that prophesy. Then read the verses from the New Testament in John and Galatians, and discuss how the prophesy was fulfilled. If you have other verses which show the prophesy fulfilled, share them.

- **Isaiah 29:14, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

Do you consider yourself a wise person? If so, what makes you wise (or not)? What does the Bible teach about wisdom in these verses – what is true wisdom? What do these verses teach about worldly wisdom and its usefulness? From where do these verses teach that true wisdom comes? Ultimately, which type of wisdom should we pursue?

- **Matthew 2:11**

What were the gifts from the Magi – wise men? Had you ever thought about the value and reason for the gifts as Pastor Kim outlined?

- **Gold** **A gift for a King.** We know Jesus is from the line of many worldly kings, and is ultimately the eternal King promised in 2 Sam 7:13.
- **Frankincense** **A gift for a Deity.** The magi who are not Jewish are confirming that Jesus is not only the promised King, but also God
- **Myrrh** **A gift for one who Suffers.** It has various uses as a medicine, and foreshadows Jesus as the “Suffering Savior”.

- **Micah 5:2, Matt 2:1-6, Luke 1:33, John 8:58**

Read the verse from Micah. What did he prophesy? Now read the verse in Matthew. When Herod asks his “wise men” who Jesus is, how do they respond? Who is the “prophet” they are talking about? Finally read the verses from Luke and John to see additional fulfillment of prophesy. This could be another “tool for your tool belt” when talking to people who do not believe Jesus lived or existed. It is additional evidence of the more than 500 prophecies in the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled.

- **Jeremiah 29:13, Psalm 95:6-7**

These verses remind us how to live while on earth, and what to do with our lives. What are some ways you “seek God with all your heart”, and “worship and bow down” to Him? Consider what you can change in your life to better live out what is directed in these verses.

5 min Personal Applications

- Pastor Kim quoted Dr. Jerry Falwell: “Wisdom is seeing life from God’s perspective and living it out.” How are you living out “life from God’s perspective”? Think of at least one thing you can do to “live out life from God’s perspective”?

15 min Group Prayer

5 min Memory verse for the week

- “Come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our God, our Maker! For He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of His hand.” Psalm 95:5-6