

Sermon Supplement

Matthew 2:1-12

A Christmas Litany: Our King and Joy

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

1. **Main Idea of the Passage:** When we see the real Jesus, the Real King, there is only one thing to do, we fall down, and with exceeding joy, we worship Him.
2. **Melodic Line of the Book:** "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20).

KEY WORDS/THEMES

1. **Magi (*magos*) vv. 1, 7** – wise men and priests, experts in astrology, possibly scientists, from the east, possibly from Babylon; Zoroastrians; see also, Mt. 2:16; Acts 13:6, 8.
2. **Worship (*proskuneō*) vv. 2, 8, 11** – to express in attitude or gesture one's complete dependence on or submission to a high authority; literally, 'to bow the knee or fall down before.' With reference to God: bowing all that we are before all that God is. Worship is our faithful response to God's gracious revelation. See also, Mt. 28:17; Jn. 4:23; Rev. 4:10.
3. **Joy (*chara*) v. 10** – the experience of gladness; a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22); joy is characteristic of the day of God's salvation (Ps. 51:12). See also, Jn. 15:11.

STRUCTURE/OUTLINE OF THE SERMON

- I. The Hunger and Worship of the Magi
 - A. The Scene
 - B. Nativity Scenes
 - C. Magi
- II. The Horror and Worry of Herod
 - A. Herod
 - B. Herod's reaction to another king is horror and worry.
 - C. Herodian hearts will also play religious.
 - D. There is a Herod in each one of us.
- III. Will the real King please stand up?
 - A. Back to the Magi
 - B. The scene
 - C. A recap of the process of salvation
 - D. The gold, frankincense, and myrrh - a fulfillment of 1 Kings 10:1-11
- IV. The Conclusion of the Matter – Jesus is King.

GOSPEL CENTRALITY

Jesus is the one, true Messiah King, the fulfillment of all the promises of the Old Testament.

KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN

- What is going on in your life or heart right now that is causing you to look outside of yourself?
- Share your story of how God revealed himself to you and how you came to the point of worshipping him as King.
- What are areas or struggles in your life that keep you from giving yourself fully to Jesus? Where do you continue to hold onto power and authority? Who or what is rivaling Jesus for authority in your life?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

- Spend some time thanking God for the good news of Jesus, that He is the one true King and Messiah and the fulfillment of all of God's promises.
- Pray that you and your group would have a true hunger for Jesus and the truth and that your response to him would not be revolt, but worship.
- Pray that God would continually fill you with the Holy Spirit, that you would regularly be able to renounce your kingship and embrace the Kingship of Jesus.
- Pray for those among your family, friends, and community that have not put their trust in Jesus, that God would reveal himself to them, and they would confess that Jesus is King.