

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 12-21-25
Christmas Message – Searching for...

1. Introduction:
 - a. It's the most wonderful time of the year...
 - b. While Christmas is a great time to celebrate –
 - 1) Depending on the circumstances in your life, things you faced this past year or what you may be facing in this season of your life, do you find yourself, while trying to celebrate Christmas, searching for truth?
 - a) This search can be hindered by the world's wisdom.
 - 2) Paul walked through this same battle in his life. Phil. 4:11-13
 - a) "I have learned" – verse 11
 - b) What did he learn? Verse 12
 - c) The answer is found only in Jesus. Verse 13
2. Joseph – Matthew 1:18-25. What was he searching for?
 - a. Joseph is in a difficult circumstance.
 - 1) As a believer, he is searching for truth in a very unique situation.
 - a) Verse 19 – 20 – you can understand the struggle in his mind.
 - 2) Background – Jewish marriage customs are very different from ours.
 - a) Joseph is described as a "just man." Matt. 1:19
 - 3) What are Joseph's options?
 - 4) The angel of the Lord visits him. Matthew 1:20
 - a) God knew his thoughts.
 - b) Would he believe it?
 - c) He accepted what the angel had said. Matthew 1:24
 - 5) Application –
 - a) Whatever level of faith Joseph had at this time was being stretched.
 - b) Are you being stretched?
3. The Wise Men. Matthew 2:1-12. What were they searching for?
 - a. An amazing story of their pursuit.
 - 1) What were the wise men searching for?
 - a) Matthew 2:2 – "he that is born King of the Jews."
 - 2) Where was Jesus when they arrived?
 - 3) Why mention the wise men?
 - a) They were searching for something they believed to be true.
 - 4) They came from the east, most likely Persia.
 - a) They would have travelled between 800 to 900 miles.
 - b) Scriptures they may have had. Daniel 9:24-27; Numbers 24:17.
 - 5) Application:
 - a) Faith –
 - b) Love –
 - c) Obedience –
 - d) As the wise men searched diligently to find the Messiah, may this remind us to diligently search His Word to know Him and to make Him Known.
 - 6) They brought Him gifts:
 - a) Gold – symbol of divinity.
 - b) Frankincense – symbol of holiness and righteousness.
 - c) Myrrh – symbol of bitterness, suffering and affliction.

- 7) Application –
 - a) How diligently are you searching to know what God has said in His Word?
- 4. King Herod. Matthew 2:1-12; 16-18
 - a. So far:
 - b. A very natural but bad pursuit.
 - 1) Herod the Great –
 - 2) Herod hears that a King is born.
 - a) Herod wasn't searching for truth.
 - 3) There is no evidence that Herod is a Christian.
 - a) Josephus records for us that Herod –
 - b) What is the truth about Herod?
 - 4) Herod searched for the wrong things.
 - a) His search is not different than many people today.
 - 5) While people do not naturally search after God, what they are searching for can only be found in God.
- 5. Today's Take Away:
 - a. Joseph – Do you feel like Joseph?
 - 1) What can you do?
 - b. Wise Men – In comparison to us they had little to go on, but what they had they searched out to find the truth about what God had said.
 - 1) How would you describe your search of God's Word?
 - c. Herod – He traded the eternal for the temporal.
 - 1) He saw more value in gaining the treasures and things of this world than considering/learning of the values of the things that are eternal.
 - a) Considering the timeline of eternity, Herod's life was but a vapor and so is yours.