

Matthew 2:1-12

“The King is Worshiped”

Pastor Bruce Zachary

There are three typical attitudes towards Jesus: adoration, anger, or apathy. The response to the birth of Jesus by the wisemen, Herod, and the religious leaders reveals their attitude toward the newborn King. Similarly, our actions tend to reveal our attitude. Discover how and why we should worship Jesus.

Discussion Qs

1. What is some of the evidence of adoration in your life?
2. Why do you think some people are angry and want to eliminate Jesus?
3. Why do you think some people, who know the Word & serve God, can become apathetic to Jesus?
4. How would you contrast adoration vs. apathy [what are some of the traits]?

“Jesus is our King” [prelude]

A. In January we focus on Bible learning:

1. Why do you need to learn the Bible?

2Tim. 3:16-17 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

i. readingplan.calvarynexus.org

Matthew 2:1-12

“The King is Worshiped”

Pastor Bruce Zachary - Mobil Ave. campus

Intro.

Subject: Three attitudes towards (the birth of) Jesus

Object: Worship the King (more than songs, but life of devotion & adoration to Him)

Context: Jesus is the rightful king as est. by the genealogy [ch.1], who will worship the newborn king [ch.2]

A. Adoration [The Magi] [1-2, 9-12]

1. Who were the wise men? [1]

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

a. *Magi* Greek were spiritual seekers, astrology, dreams, metaphysics

i. “We Three Kings (from Orient are)” cf. doesn’t say anything re number. Cf. 3 gifts

ii. Cf. 3 men would not likely trouble Herod [3], likely a large camel caravan

b. **from the East:** Persian empire – Iran/Iraq, travel @ 900 miles by camel = hardship

2. Why did they come? [2] saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

a. **They were seeking to worship the King of the Jews**

b. Likely influenced by Daniel and other exiled Jews following Babylon/Persian captivity over 500 years before.

3. What was His star? Not likely a mere celestial body based on the movement, but likely Shekinah glory of God [Ex. 3 burning bush, pillar of fire in the wilderness].

i. Cf. they were astrologers & God met them where they were at.

a. God led them by the star to Jesus [9] **When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.**

i. *God wants to lead us to Christ [Jn. 16:8-15]*

4. What was the evidence of their adoration? [10-12]

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

a. **Rejoice at discovering Jesus [10]**

b. **Submit themselves and worship Jesus [11]**

i. **the house:** Jesus is no longer at the stable – prob. 6-18 months old.

ii. **fell down and worshiped Him:** falling down is a sign of humility

c. Sacrifice [11] presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh: Gold [king], frankincense [priest's sacred oil], myrrh [burial, death (Jn. 19:39)]

i. David re Araunah's threshing floor 2Sam. 24:18-25]

d. They did not return to Herod per God's divine warning in a dream [12]

? What is some of the evidence of adoration in your life?

B. Anger [Herod] [3, 7-8]

1. Who is Herod? [3]

When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

a. Renown for his ruthlessness and building projects. Only ruler who had brought order and peace to Roman province of Palestine

i. Caesar Augustus, "It was safer to be Herod's pig than his son."

ii. Killed his wives and sons and anyone who threatened his throne

iii. Built glorious palaces, fortresses, aqueducts, amphitheatre, temple mount & temple

iv. Five days before his death, he ordered the leading Jews to be arrested and killed at his death, because he wanted to ensure mourning [were arrested, & later released]

v. News of a king of the Jews threatens Herod & he is troubled & Jerusalem with him

2. What was the evidence of anger? [7-8] Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

Herod secretly calls the Magi to ask when the star appeared [7]. He asks them to report the Child's whereabouts to him so that he can worship [8]

a. Herod sought to eliminate Jesus not worship

i. Herod had every male child under 2 slaughtered (infanticide) [**Matt. 2:16-18**] fulfilling the prophecy of **Jer. 31:15**

? Why do you think some people are angry & want to eliminate Jesus? [Neo-atheists

ii. Herod wants to eliminate Jesus, because He poses a threat to his lifestyle.

iii. Who do you want to be king?

C. Apathy [The Religious Leaders] [4-6]

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.⁵ So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:⁶ ‘But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel

1. Who were the religious leaders? Chief priests were the leading priests and high Priest. Scribes were the scholars of the law (lawyers) and were primarily Pharisees.

2. What was the question? where the Christ was to be born? [4]

a. They know the right answer: Per **Micah 5:2** [6] the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem – the Birthplace of David - only 7 miles away.

3. What was the evidence of apathy? Yet despite the buzz in Jerusalem that the Messiah may have come to His people they did not go to see.

a. Why is apathy a problem? [Rev. 3:16] The lukewarm church at Laodicea that Jesus spewed from His mouth

? Why do you think some people, who know the Word & serve God, can become apathetic to Jesus?

? How would you contrast adoration vs. apathy [what are some of the traits]?

Why you should adore and worship the King? [6] Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel: Jesus is the Messiah who is the Ruler and shepherd who guides, protects, and cares for God’s people. Good Shepherd [**Jn. 10:14, 1Pet. 5:4**]

* Angry or apathetic people can oppose God’s work intentionally or unintentionally, but God will be adored

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“The King is Worshiped”

Pastor Justin Bell - Lewis Rd. campus

Intro: Sin is a worship problem, Romans 1:23 - exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images...

Subject: The King is Worshiped

Object: Worship the King

context: Jesus born to Mary

What is Worship? (v.1-2)

Who were these men? Magi Greek were spiritual seekers, astrology, dreams, metaphysics

i. “We Three Kings (from Orient are)” cf. doesn’t say anything re number. Cf. 3 gifts

ii. Cf. 3 men would not likely trouble Herod [3], likely a large camel caravan

b. from the East: Persian empire – Iran/Iraq, travel @ 900 miles by camel = hardship - Jesus 12-18 months

Likely influenced by Daniel and other exiled Jews following Babylon/Persian captivity over 500 years before.

note: Jesus calls the most unlikely people!

A. Shachah (Hebrew): Submission/Surrender

Genesis 22:5 is the first mention of “worship” in the Scriptures

B. Proskyneo (Greek): Reverence

used in v.2

C. Worth-ship (English): Glorify

What Keeps Us From Worship? (v.3-8)

Q: What keeps us from worship?

A. Pride (v.3, 7-8)

Herod is troubled because he is threatened: he wants to be the King, not Jesus

Renown for his ruthlessness and building projects. Only ruler who had brought order and peace to Roman province of Palestine

i. Caesar Augustus, “It was safer to be Herod’s pig than his son.”

ii. Killed his wives and sons and anyone who threatened his throne

iii. Built glorious palaces, fortresses, aqueducts, amphitheatre, temple mount & temple

iv. Five days before his death, he ordered the leading Jews to be arrested and killed at his death, because he wanted to ensure mourning [were arrested, & later released]

Herod had every male child under 2 slaughtered (infanticide) [Matt. 2:16-18] fulfilling the prophecy of Jer. 31:15

we don't want this, we want independence

Asher: "Never"

Where in your life are you saying "never" to God?

B. Fear (v.3)

People of Israel feared Caesar would come and bring war on them

What keeps you from worshipping God?

C. Apathy (4-6)

The religious leaders are apathetic: 7 miles away! Head knowledge, but no heart knowledge

ex: knowing about investing, but not investing

King Jesus desires to be our Ruler

King Jesus desires to be our Shepherd

He wants to care for us and guide us

We can trust He is leading us

Why Do We Worship? (v.9-12)

A. Worship Brings Us Joy (v.10)

The scriptures speak of joy and so often as Christians we are down! - Religious leaders didn't like joy of Jesus

B. Worship Helps Us See Jesus (v.11)

If they were seeking glory like Herod or apathetic like the religious leaders they wouldn't have seen Jesus

C. Worship Shapes Our Priorities (v.11)

three gifts for Jesus, not for themselves - any plans they had for these items were irrelevant

Giving God time, talent, treasure shouldn't flow from guilt, but from our awe of God

If we are not generous, we have a worship problem

D. Worship Helps Us Hear God's Voice (v.12)

In worshipping Jesus, they heard God speak and were guided

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace

Conclusion:

“If we don’t stare at God, we’ll spend our time staring at lesser things. Namely, ourselves.” - Francis Chan

Let’s Worship