

UNTOLD

Ryland Walter | December 3-4, 2022
Week 1: Divinity and a Dictator

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod.

What Made King Herod Horrible?

About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ² “Where is the newborn king of the Jews?” We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

³ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶ ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸ Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

⁹ After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod. ¹³ After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

¹⁴ That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, ¹⁵ and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: “I called my Son out of Egypt.”

¹⁶ Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men’s report of the star’s first appearance. Matthew 2:1-16 (NLT)

What Made The Wise Men Wise?

1. They were seekers of the _____
“Where is the newborn king of the Jews?” v.2
2. They were willing to go to _____ to find it
...some wise men from eastern lands... v.1
3. They didn’t stop until they came to _____
“They entered the house and saw the child with his mother” v.11
4. They came for the _____
“We have come to worship him.” vs. 2
5. They gave Jesus _____ they had
Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. V.11

Gold = The most precious metal, a symbol of divinity
Frankincense = Used in Temple worship to GOD,
a symbol of holiness & righteousness
Myrrh = A spice used to embalm a body after death,
a symbol of bitterness & suffering

What Should I Give To Jesus?

- I give Him my _____

Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.
Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:5 (NLT)

- I bring _____ to Him

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
John 3:16 (NIV)

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...some wise men from eastern lands... v.1
3. They didn’t stop until they came to Jesus
“They entered the house and saw the child with his mother” v.11
4. They came for the right reason
“We have come to worship him.” vs. 2
5. They gave Jesus the best they had
Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. V.11

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- I bring others to Him

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DIVINITY AND A DICTATOR

Talk-it-Over Notes | December 3-4, 2022

REVIEW IT

The wise men (Magi) are featured prominently in the Christmas story. Who were these wise men exactly? It's interesting to discover what the Bible says about them, and what it doesn't say! It doesn't say how many wise men came, and it doesn't give the land they came from, except to say it was east of Bethlehem. But the Bible does tell us what made these wise men wise.

- They were seekers of the truth
- They were willing to go to any length to find truth
- They didn't stop until they came to Jesus
- They came for the right reason
- They gave Jesus the best they had

The Bible also says they brought precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, each a symbol of Jesus' divinity and purpose. The question for us today is, what will you bring to Jesus this Christmas? Will you give him your heart? Will you bring others with you?

Spend some time in the word... **Read Matthew chapter 2**

TALK ABOUT IT

- Is there a funny gift you have given or received that you'd like to share?
- What stood out to you from this message or the reading of Matthew Chapter 2? Are there any parts that you'd forgotten or have never been told?
- It has been said, "Wise men still seek him." Look over the five things the wise men did. What would it look like to seek God today?

ACT ON IT

Giving your heart to Jesus means giving Him first place in our lives. We can trust him in all areas. **F**inances, **I**nterests, **R**elationships, **S**chedule, and **T**roubles. What's one thing you could do to put Jesus first this month? Also, consider who you could invite or bring with you to a Christmas Eve service.

PRAY ABOUT IT

Take some time to ask how you can pray for and support one another this week. Then, close praying for one another.