

THE PERSPECTIVE OF CHRISTMAS

Matthew 2:1-8

INTRODUCTION

1. Christmas is, for a lot of folks.

- a) They are well-wrapped emptiness.
- b) Many people find Christmas to be a depressing time.
- c) And if you do not understand the true meaning of Christmas, you can make it pretty, but it's hollow inside.

2. Right now we live in some very difficult times.

a) 2 Timothy 3:1-5

- 1) We are living troubling times but the Christ of Christmas changes everything!!!

3. When God became a man He lived a perfect life, provided Salvation, and now he rules as King of kings and Lord of lords.

4. Very Important: It's all about dealing with the sin question.

- a) You miss that, you miss the reason for Christmas.

5. The Christian life is all about PERSPECTIVE!!!

6. Matthew 2:1-8

7. This morning we will look @ some other personalities in Matthew 2

I. THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE WISE MEN

1. Matthew 2: 1-2

A. THEY CAME TO WORSHIP

1. SO....What is worship?

- a) Psalm 29:2

2. So what does "worship" mean?

- a) **Answer:** It is reverent homage and honor paid to God.
- b) It is something done or given in acknowledging the WORTH of another.
- c) The objective of Salvation is to create WORSHIPPERS.

3. WOW!!! Isaiah 35:8-10

- a) Speaking of Israel and the Millenium!!

4. **THIS IS HUGE!!** How we worship reflects the hope of our eternal destiny!!!

a) *John 4:23*

5. *I Chronicles 16:23-29*

6. *Psalm 100:1-5*

B. JESUS WAS WORTHY OF THEIR WORSHIP

1. Their perspective was Jesus was worth the worship.

a) *Jesus was worth the inconvenience to get to worship.*

2. So, they see his star, his star. Not merely a star, his star.

3. That means that they looked at the prophecies concerning Jesus as being the revelation of God and decided this child was worthy of worship.

a) How did they know what to look for?

5. *Daniel 2:12-24, 36-45*

a) Cf. *5:11-12*

6. *Matt 2:9-11*

7. "*When they reached the house and saw the child,*" which amounts to a 1-2 year journey if they initiated their journey to Jesus when they saw the star of his birth.

a) The Greek word there means "toddler," a 1- or 2-year old.

8. **WOW!!!!!!!!!!** So, the question you have to ask is does Christmas invoke worship in your life?

a) *These wise men sought him, and because they sought him, God revealed himself to them.*

9. *Matthew 2:11-12*

C. WORSHIP LEADS TO GUIDANCE

1. Guess what they got because they had a divine focus on Christmas?

a) *They got divine guidance.*

2. The Magi - got divine guidance in their worship, not in the opening of their Christmas gifts, not in their parties, not in their celebrations.

3. So if you need to hear from God, it would be wise to spend more time in worship.

4. **They got guidance because they had worship.**

a) Wise men still seek him during Christmas. Why?

b) Because God is WHERE Jesus is being glorified and worshiped.

5. **LISTEN UP:** So because of their great inconvenience to get to Jesus, they got to hear from heaven. AMEN

II. THE PERSPECTIVE OF KING HEROD

A. TROUBLED OVER WORSHIP

1. Vs 3

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

2. When Herod the king heard this, what exactly did he hear?

a) He heard what the magi were looking for....a King!!

1) *"Where is the King of the Jews that we might worship him"?*

3. And when Herod got shook up, it says all of Jerusalem got shook up with him.

a) What was it about what the magi were looking for that messed up Herod?

b) They were looking for another king.

c) and Herod was the king!!!

4. Herod's perspective was. *"We don't have room for two kings."*

5. When Herod is upset you're in trouble!!!!

6. WOW!!!! - Jesus ALSO has problems with people who don't want his rule in their life.

a) People would rather have a Jesus they can rule over.

b) Not a Savior who rules over us.

7. **Matthew 2:2**

8. So here is the question you gotta ask from this lesson of Herod.

a) So the wise men believed Jesus was worthy of worship at Christmas!!

1) Even if it was a huge inconvenience.

b) **But here's the question** - Does Jesus have the right to be King over your life?

c) **And watch this** - Are other people negatively affected because you do not allow him to rule in your life?

9. **This is huge:** WOW!!! A lot of other folk are in trouble because we're in trouble with Jesus being King.

a) When a man says, "**Jesus can't be king over my life...somebodies** in trouble.

b) When a society says, "**We don't want Jesus and his principles ruling here,**" that nation is in trouble.

10. Notice **Vs 3-4**

1) **Vs 4**

a) *"and he assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people"*

b) *"he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born"*

11. **Vs 8**

a) *"and when you have found him,"*

b) *"bring me word, that I too may come and worship him"*

12. **There's a third group.**

a) **Vs 4**

1) It says *"I want you to get this information. Where is this Jesus to be born? Where is this King to be born?"*

III. THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE RELIGIOUS

1. **Vs 5-6**

1. Interesting. He calls the religious leaders, and the religious leaders quote Scripture.

2. That means they know their Bible.

a) While they knew the Bible, **they never made the trip.**

1) While they knew the Word, they never went a few miles to see Him.

3. They had studied the Scripture but did not lift a finger to go and worship the Lord.

4. *John 5:39-40*

a) Jesus tells them that they have the Word and they study the Scriptures, but they did not know the Lord.

5. The religious leaders knew the Scriptures, *but they didn't go to Jerusalem.*

a) If the Scriptures don't lead you to Jesus, then you've got a well-wrapped holiday.

CONCLUSION:

1. **Christmas season will be full of religious activities.**

a) **If what you read about him doesn't draw you to him, you don't experience him.**

2. So, as you interact with yourself and others during this holiday season,

a) You don't want to be like Herod - **reject his rule.**

b) You don't want to be like the *religious leaders* - read his Word, and not move to Him.

c) **YOU WANT TO BE LIKE THE WISE MEN AND WORSHIP HIM**

3. **Jeremiah 29:13**