

Study of Matthew

Matthew 2:1 – 12

March 6, 2022

DISCUSSION QUESTION: How does the Wise Men's pursuit of seeing Jesus encourage you to pursue intimacy in worship?

TODAY: Matthew 2:1 – 12

Before I begin with digging into text lets look at some of the myths, folk tales & traditions surrounding the Wise Men

I think the fact that we know little of who they are shows that the Holy Spirit wants to emphasize what they did.

Matthew has focused on Genealogy & Theology of Jesus; he now turns his attention to Geography. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Matthew is methodically making his case to that Jesus is the Messiah. Geography (physical location) of the Messiah matters. For God had spoken through the prophets on where the Messiah would show up.

1. Fulfillment of Word

Vs. 4 & 5 *"he (Herod) demanded of them where Christ should be born.5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel."*

Ps 148:1-8 "Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights. 2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. 3 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. 4 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created. 6 He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass. 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps: 8 Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word:" [KJV]

Isa 14:24 "The Lord of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought (planned), so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:" [KJV]

Isa 46:9-10 "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:" [KJV]

2. Fear of Woe

Vs. 7 – 8 *“Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.”*

Herod’s fear of others finding this ruler calls the Wise Men privately...that is he wanted this meeting unnoticed; secret

Woe meaning **sorrow, misery, misfortune.**

Herod could only see what “might” happen to him and his position and it created anxiety and strain.

Celia said to us, “too many are more intimate with their problems than with God.”

3. Falling to Worship

Vs. 11 *“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures...”*

But the wise men have a different approach to life.

They move from pursuing to prostrating. Here in is intimacy!

4. Following the Warning

Vs. 12 *“And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.”*

The word warned has to do with transacting business in the sense of advise or consultation with someone about their public affairs. It also has judicial implications with the idea of judges, rulers, kings giving commands or admonitions. Literally to **teach from heaven**

But the root of the word means **divinely intimate**