



Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/sermons
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Matthew 2:1-12

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, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Sermon Outline:

- I. The Response of Indifference, as seen in the chief priests and the scribes, teachers of the law.
- II. The Response of Rejection, as seen in Herod
- III. And the Response of Worship, as seen in the Magi.

Life Group Leader Notes:





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- What misconceptions have you believed about the Christmas story? Why is it important to know what really happened when Jesus was born?

 - In Matthew 2:5 we realize the chief priests and the scribes knew where Jesus was going to be born and did not go searching for him. What does this tell us about their hearts? How does this foreshadow how they would respond to Jesus when he is older? Are you prone to respond to Jesus this way?

 - When the magi saw His star ...”they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.” The word for ‘exceedingly’ is also used at the transfiguration when the disciples fell at their feet and were terrified when God the Father spoke to them concerning Jesus. How are these two stories similar in their declaration of who Christ is? How are these stories different?

 - The magi sacrificed time, treasure, and themselves in order to worship Christ. What are some ways we can incorporate worship into our Christmas plans?

 - What area of your life needs hope? How does the star of Jesus shine light on that area this Christmas?

