

December 25, 2016
Matthew 2:1-12

THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

I. Introduction:

II. If You'll Look For Truth, It Can Be Found.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem [2] and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:1-2

A. Don't be afraid to ask for directions.

B. Seek Jesus and You'll Find Him.

I and the Father are one." John 10:30

"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. [13] You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:12-13

III. There Are None So Blind As Those Who Will Not See

[3] When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, [4] When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. [5] "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: [6] " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" [7] Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. [8] He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

A. Those Who Knew The Most Failed To Act

B. Until Our Hearts Are Open, The Facts Won't Affect Us

III. Joy Comes From Knowing Jesus

[9] After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. [10] When they saw the star, **they were overjoyed**. [11] On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. [12] And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

A. Keep Seeking Until You Find.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. [8] For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." Matthew 7:7-8

B. Engage Your Whole Self In Worship

[11] On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

C. Offer To God Your Very Best:

D. Be Willing To Have Your Course Altered

"Whoever has my commands and **obeys them**, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."
John 14:21

"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

POINTS TO PONDER
Week of December 25th to December 31st
The Wonder Of Christmas
Matthew 2:1-12

Open It

1. Why do we give gifts at Christmas?
2. *If you could give any gift to anyone, what would you give, to whom, and why?
3. What prompts people to make great sacrifices for others?

Explore It

4. Where was Jesus born? (2:1)
5. During whose reign was Jesus born? (2:1)
6. *Who came to visit the young Jesus? (2:1)
7. What external and internal factors prompted the Magi to search for Jesus? (2:2)
8. What title did the Magi give to Jesus? (2:2)
9. How did King Herod react to the visit of the Magi? (2:3-4)
10. *Why was a powerful king disturbed by the presence of a helpless baby? (2:3-6)
11. Why is it significant that Christ was born in Bethlehem? (2:5-6)
12. What were King Herod's instructions to the Magi? (2:8)
13. How were the Magi led to Christ? (2:9-10)
14. *What was the Magi's reaction when they realized they had found the Christ? (2:10)

15. Where was Jesus when the Magi found Him? (2:11)
16. How did the Magi react upon seeing Jesus? (2:11)
17. What gifts did the Magi bring to Jesus? (2:11)
18. Why didn't the Magi report back to Herod as he had requested? (2:12)

Get It

19. How would you define worship?
20. *What sort of activities does worship involve?
21. *What are some various "presents" we might give to Christ?
22. How does it feel to have a rival—to feel as though you are being overlooked or replaced?
23. How can a competitive, prideful, or insecure spirit alter a person's behavior?
24. Why are many people reluctant to donate money to religious causes?
25. What are some specific ways Christians can serve as "stars" and lead others to Christ?

Apply It

26. What starlike, shining deed can you do today to point a non-Christian friend to Christ?
27. What sacrifice do you need to make for Christ this week?
28. *What gift of time, effort, or money would demonstrate your love for Jesus this week?