



WEEK 3

Christmas Is. . .

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How would you Meet Jesus?

This week we will look at and compare the stories in Mathew and Luke about Jesus' birth. We will read about the Magi and the Shepards, The kings of the time, and the new parents to be.

How would you meet the Savior of the World?





Day 1
King Herod and his leaders

Mathew 2: 1-6

There are a few things we need to know about King Herod: He was a great King in some regards. He was great with politics and finances, But he had a love for power that would bring him to ruin. At the end of his life, he was sick and in his illness would make rash decisions and lash out to kill anything that stood in his way for power.

When King Herod got word of a new baby ruler, he got paranoid and called for the Chief Priests and Scribes. They all talked and the priests and scribes told the king about the well-known Jewish prophecy about the Birth of a savior.

These new details about a king, caused Herod to lash out and order every male child to be killed.

Ok so none of us want to be like King Herod. This I'm sure. To be someone who chooses the chase of power before the love and relationship of a savior??

What about the Chief priest and the scribes?



The scribes spent their life teaching from the Old Testament stories. When asked about the prophecy of the Birth of a savior, they knew exactly what the prophecy would say because that was their Job.

Here is the sad thing.

These scribes and Priests had the knowledge of the Birth of a savior but yet they did nothing to meet the new King. They could have followed the wise men as soon as they realized that the prophecy was happening. But no they didn't.

I just wonder if there have been times in my life when I have had the knowledge of Jesus but did nothing to put it into action. Nothing to move me to find him.

Sadly I think there are people that do this. Maybe they show up on Sundays to attend a service, but never open their bible at home. Maybe they volunteer at every church event, but they can't tell you what their favorite Worship song is.

May we STOP if we see any of this within us? Let us strive to not just know who Jesus is, but also seek to KNOW him more. Spend time with him, worship him

Maybe we never have so much wisdom we are no earthly good.

So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:
'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you shall come a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"
Mathew 2: 5-6

Day 2
The Wisemen
Mathew 2: 7-12



Have you ever been so excited to meet a celebrity? Imagine if you had planned the VIP experience for their concert or event. On the day of the concert, you do not stop smiling or talking about all the fun facts you know about the artist. You are excited maybe even filled with joy??? Rejoicing at what was about to happen?
YOU might be a wise man!

Did you know that the wise men probably didn't make it to see the baby Jesus until he was probably closer to 2 years old? The Wisemen would have set ut immediately after seeing the star, but it would have been a long journey from the East to Judea.

Remembering yesterday's reading they first stopped by King Herods. They likely assumed that the new King would be in the Palace. or at least the Palace would know where he was. But that was not the case, or so it seemed.

When they left King Herods and saw the star they immediately started to REJOICE (verse 10). That's right they started to Rejoice at the anticipation of what was about to happen.

*** Can you imagine if this is how we walked in to church on Sunday, or the prayer meeting, or the bible study???*

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS. I WILL SAY IT AGAIN: REJOICE!

PHILIPPIANS 4:4



Finally, they arrived to see the, not so much a tiny, baby. The way the Wisemen greeted him showed exactly what they believed.

*** I think we forget the connection between our actions and what we believe. When we believe something to be true it shows in our actions. When we love our parents or spouse it is not just a word we say but it is how we care for them, how we speak to them, and How we support them. It is in our actions. You only believe the parts of the bible that you put into action.*

The Wisemen believed. In Verse 11 it says:

After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they [a]fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

They Fell to their knees and worshiped him.

Now, this is how you greet one you believe to be king. They even brought Gifts for the king.

As we look at and compare how those in the Christmas story greeted Jesus, let us always remember the wisemen. The men who believed that this Child was a fulfillment of a long-ago prophecy. The men who put their belief into ACTION and honored him as KING.

Let us Rejoice this season and always that we have a SAVIOR!! and honor him as such when we come and when we go.

FUN FACT: the traditional end of CHRISTMAS time and the time to take down Christmas decorations is January 6th, which is honored as the day the Wisemen from afar came.