

Beyond His Birth

Life Lessons on Christmas from Those Who Were There

SESSION 2: THE WISE MEN - SEEKING JESUS

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. **Matthew 2:1-12 ESV**

There are four types of people in this passage:

1. THE WISE MEN

They were faithfully seeking Jesus

2. HEROD

He was seeking after his own interests

3. THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

They were too oppressed and afraid to seek their Savior

4. THE CHIEF PRIESTS & SCRIBES

They weren't seeking anything more than what they already had

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; You have increased its joy; they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. **Isaiah 9:2-7 ESV**

“Those who look for Jesus will see Him.

Those who truly see Him will worship Him.

Those who worship Him will consecrate their substance to Him.”

Charles Spurgeon, 19th Century Preacher & Biblical Scholar

Notes:

Discussion Questions:

- In seeking Jesus, what are you hoping to find? What have you already found in Him?
- What are some of the ways in which you seek Jesus?
- Describe and compare the seasons of your life when you are earnestly seeking Jesus and when you aren't seeking Him as much?
- Which of the other people in the passage do you look like when you aren't seeking Jesus? Self-seeking like Herod? Too defeated to seek like the people of Israel? Or too apathetic to seek like the chief priests and scribes?
- What do you do when you're seeking Jesus and don't seem to find Him?

Homework:

Very often, Jesus is to be found in the humblest of places. Like when He was born on earth, He was in a place that didn't match His majesty. This season, and beyond, see how and where you can seek Jesus in places out of your comfort zone. Perhaps you can volunteer and serve the less fortunate in your community or outside of your community. Or maybe you can reach out to someone new with kindness and love. Report your experiences to your group at your next gathering.

Meditate & Memorize:

You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart. **Jeremiah 29:13**

O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh faints for You, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. **Psalm 63:1**

