



From Baghdad to Bethlehem

Matthew 2:1-12

December 16th, 2018

Sermon Questions

1. Pastor Jim stated that Jesus is a King who must be reckoned with? What does he mean by that?
2. In Pastor Jim's description of Matthew 2, we learn that the wise men were pagan magicians who God led to honor the newborn King. Why do you think that God would not have picked a more spiritual group of men to honor Jesus? Pastor Jim says that Jesus' associations with sinners and pagans tend to make Christians uncomfortable. Why?
3. Jesus came to save the least likely people. Assuming this applies to you, why were you the least likely? Or do you think you were more "qualified" than some others who have been saved?
4. Pastor Jim discussed various reactions Christians and non-Christians have to the idea of being under the authority of a King (Jesus). One reaction is to ignore and become desensitized to the Holy Truth. In what ways have you become desensitized to the Holy truth?
5. The Holy Truth can also be resisted, even by Christians. Why would a Christian, who has made a vow to follow Jesus, resist the Holy Truth?
6. As we grow spiritually, we more consistently and deeply respond to Jesus in worship. Do you relish the idea of having a King rule your life? What needs to happen for you to worship King Jesus more deeply?

Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)

2 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, ² 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." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "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."

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.