



Series: The Gifts of Christmas

Passage: Matthew 2:1-12

Title: The Gift of Worship

Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper, 12/29/2024

Discussion Starter –What definition of worship was presented in this message? Describe a time when you have experienced a close connection to God in worship. What is the implied relationship between a worshipper and the one worshipped?

Read Matthew 2:1-3

1. Who was Herod the king? What was his role over Judea and how did it relate to the Roman authorities?
2. What caused Herod to be troubled when he learned that the “King of the Jews” had been born in Israel?
 - a. What areas in your life do you consider yourself to be king? Has Jesus challenged you for rulership in those areas?
3. Who were the wise men from the east? What had God revealed to them? How did they respond to God’s revelation?
 - b. What commitment are you prepared to make for the privilege of knowing Jesus? Are you confident God will reward your commitment? (Read Matthew 7:7)

Read Matthew 2:4-8

4. What information did the Jewish leaders provide to help direct the wise men?
5. How did the Jewish leaders respond to the wise men’s message that the King of the Jews had been born?
 - c. Do you know people who are indifferent toward Jesus and the Gospel message? What can we do to help overcome the apathy about the Kingdom of God?
6. In verse 16, we see Herod’s honest response to Jesus’ birth. How is hostility against the Gospel expressed in our culture today?
 - d. How can we present the Gospel differently to a hostile person compared to an indifferent one?
 - e. Have you responded with indifference or hostility when Jesus has given you revelation of Himself and His will for you in His word?

Read Matthew 2:9-12

7. How did the wise men respond to the directions provided by Herod and the Jews?
8. How did the wise men react when they saw the young Child?
9. How valuable were the gifts offered by the wise men? What motivated them to offer them to Jesus?
 - f. How do the treasures offered to Jesus help us to understand what real worship looks like? What treasures of mind, will, body and emotion have you offered to Jesus as your service of worship?
 - g. As you grow in knowledge and understanding of Jesus and His gift of grace do you increase in the level of worship, sacrifice, allegiance, and service you offer to Him?