
Date: December 26, 2021

Message: Eyes to See

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-13,16

Three familiar reactions to Jesus' birth...

1. A _____ reaction (vv.3-8,16)

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed... (Matt 2:3a)

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious... (Matt 2:16a)

2. A _____ reaction (vv.3-6)

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. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written." (Matt 2:4-5)

3. A _____ reaction (vv.1-2, 9-12)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 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." (Matt 2:1-2)

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. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 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. (Matt 2:9-11)

- Gold is a gift for a _____
- Frankincense is a gift for a _____
- Myrrh is a gift for a _____

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Matthew 2:1-13,16

1. How have your reactions to Christmas changed over the course of your life? In what ways are your reactions like or unlike others that you know?
2. Does Herod's response to Jesus' birth remind you of anyone? In what ways was Herod's response like someone you know (maybe even yourself)? Is there anything you can do to help someone who wants nothing to do with Jesus?
3. Of all people, why was the response of the religious leaders and teachers so sad? What does their response say about their relationship with God?
4. Can you think of a time in your life when you were indifferent to the Lord and the Lord's work? What did you learn about your spiritual walk with God, or what might you need to learn right now?
5. What does the star that God used to lead the Magi to Jesus tell you about the importance of Jesus' birth? What does it tell you about God's love for the Magi and others who have followed in their footsteps?
6. What is it about the Magi's worship of the child Jesus that tugs at your heart? In what ways can your worship of Jesus – our king, priest, and savior – impact your humility, joy, and hope?
7. Complete this sentence: This Christmas, I'm giving to Jesus – my king, priest, and savior – my _____.