

Disciples of Christmas: The Magi

Central idea: The visit of the magi clarifies the three possible responses to the person of Jesus: hostility, indifference, or worship.

Matthew 2:1-12

Look up.

Read the passage thoughtfully.

What did you like about the passage?

What did you find difficult about the passage?

What does this passage teach about people?

What does this passage teach about God?

Alternative questions to help you think through this passage:

- From the sermon and your own understanding, who are the magi (note that the term “magi” gives us our words “magician,” as well as “magistrate”)?
- One response to the person of Jesus is hostility (see verses 2 and 16, as well as John 15:18-20). Have you encountered anger or hostility when attempting to share your faith in the Savior? What happened?
- Another response is that of indifference (see verses 4-6; as far as we know the religious leaders--who should have been looking for the Messiah--never walked the 5 miles to Bethlehem to investigate for themselves). How do you counter spiritual drift and indifference within your own life?
- Agree or disagree: Those who live closest to grace, may be the ones who never experience it.
- The third possible response to Jesus is that of faith and worship (see verses 10-11). What are some of the ways worship is expressed in these verses?
- How do we cultivate joy in our response to the Savior?
- What is your “gold, incense, and myrrh”? Have you offered this to Jesus?

Look forward.

- Thirty years later the One born in Bethlehem said that the Father seeks our authentic worshipers (see John 4:23-24). What would that look like for you next Sunday? Tomorrow morning?