

ReDiscovering Christmas: Finding Purpose in the Midst of My Problems

Matthew 2:1-12

Series Summary

This Christmas season, no matter how heavy your heart is with the weight of the world there is “Good News of Great Joy” to be found in these troubling times. Jesus Christ has come into the world that you might find freedom and salvation through Him alone. It has been a difficult year but in the midst of the chaos and confusion that has bombarded your life there is a light that shines through the darkness bringing hope and joy forever! Join us as Rediscover Christmas and Remember the Good News of all Time!

Christmas carols always seem to bring out the best in people. It's as if we can travel back in time to a place where life was less complicated and Christmas was full of joy and magic. The churches fill with people and in our villages, towns and cities people meet to stand together in the cold to sing songs.

Main Passage

Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV) – 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, ²saying, “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.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They 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.’ ” ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.

⁸And 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.” ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Big Idea – Wise Men Find Peace in the Pursuit of God’s Purpose and Plan

Three Principles of Purpose

Principle #1 – The Pursuit of God’s Word Brings Clarity of Purpose and Lasting Hope

Matthew 2:1-2 – ¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “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.”

Principle #2 – The Plan: Wise Men Learn to Trust in the Lord's Direction and Discover Prevailing Peace

Matthew 2:3-8 – ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They 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.’ ”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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.”

Principle #3 – Wise Men Learn to Praise God at All Times and Gain Great Joy

Matthew 2:9-12 – ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Memory Verse

Matthew 2:10 (ESV) – When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.