

The Epiphany of Our Lord

Sermon Road Map

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Matthew 2:1-12

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Those who see the Savior King of all, give him their all.

We think we know the story of the visit of the Magi, complete with images in our heads. Step back, start with a blank screen and let Matthew fill it in.

- **Magi from the east came to Jerusalem.**
 - ♦ Magi - plural - no number. More than 2! 6, 10, 12? We don't know.
 - ♦ No doubt an impressive unusual sight. Why did these Gentiles come?
- **“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”**
 - ♦ What? What newborn King of the Jews?
 - ♦ Star? What star? We don't know anything about such star.
- ³ **When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.**
 - ♦ Herod had zero tolerance for potential rivals. He was worked up.
 - ♦ That made all of Jerusalem nervous. Herod was volatile.
 - ♦ Maybe also nervous. Gentiles looking for the King of the Jews?
 - Pious Gentiles were welcome in the Court of Gentiles. But, Gentiles....

❖ **Yahweh was clear. His Savior King was for all people.**

- This was not a news flash.
 - ♦ To Abraham: *all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*
 - ♦ **“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”** Isaiah 49:6
 - ♦ Sadly many Jews looked down on Gentiles as unworthy of being saved.
- What about us? Who do we view as unsavable? Not belonging?
 - ♦ It is critical that we hold: *Jesus is the Savior King for all people.*
 - ♦ Critical: **If** we think somehow we have a right - **it's not by grace!**
 - Pride thinks: we're special. God owes us a Savior. Sinful arrogance!
 - ♦ Critical: **Only if** he is for all people **can we be sure for me too!**
 - To the guilt ridden - *I'm unworthy. I don't deserve... I deserve death.*
- The Visit of the Magi makes it clear: **Jesus is the Savior King for all!**
 - ♦ Through the Scriptures they understood this star announced his birth.
 - ♦ Through the Scriptures they knew he came to save **them too.**
 - ♦ **God invited them, personally escorting** these Gentiles to their Savior King Jesus with this special miraculous star!
 - ♦ **Yahweh was clear. His Savior King was for all people.**

❖ **Stand in awe: for me too! Wow! Glad tidings of wonder and joy.**

- **Danger:** so familiar with *Jesus is my Savior*, it seems like old news.
- It's healthy to recognize my sin - rebellion - not letting God be my Lord.
 - ♦ Only those who know they don't deserve God's love, will be...
 - ♦ daily stunned that God loves me - filled with wonder and joy over him
- Paul calls the salvation of the Gentiles a mystery revealed - unexpected!
 - ♦ Wonder and awe are missing in our life without this daily discovery.
 - ♦ Our faith becomes lukewarm. Not God's fault! Our lack of clarity
 - ♦ All was clear to the Magi from God's Word: unworthy, yet saved
 - ♦ **Unworthy - saved:** confessed by mere habit or by renewed conviction?
 - ♦ Those convicted by their sin live lives in humble awe: *Jesus is the Savior King of all - me too!* And all others.

❖ **I want Jesus to save all of me from me, to serve him.**

- What led the Magi to inconvenience themselves, go way out of their way?
 - ♦ Wonder - awe - joy - trust (certainty) - love (priceless) - fear (reverence)
 - ♦ Eager & compelled to worship him with their all
 - ♦ This trip took planning, effort, resources - total devotion to Savior King
- Learn the key distinction between: *descriptive vs. prescriptive.*
 - ♦ This account describes what these fellow believers did.
 - ♦ **It doesn't tell us:** *real believers will make such a pilgrimage.*
 - ♦ Yet, clearly seeing Jesus as our Savior, clearly has an impact on people.
- Jesus gave **his all for all**, to rescue your **all** - the whole you.
 - ♦ Jesus is worthy of our total devotion. Serving him as our Lord.
 - ♦ *Redeem:* he secures our freedom from captivity, to belong to him.
 - ♦ This Biblical truth slays 2 American sacred cows.
 - **My freedom:** I am only free if I can do what I want. Master of my life.
 - A life lived following & serving your heart is wasted. **Serve Jesus.**
 - **My possessions/my money:** It's mine to use as I want. It masters you.
 - For self - *meaningless.* Use to serve Jesus - liberating - life enriching
 - ♦ Any part of myself, my life, my heart not under His reign - ruled by sin.
 - The heart of sin is not letting God be my Lord.
 - Where Jesus is not your Lord, he can't save you from your sinful self.
 - ♦ We who know sin's clutches of captivity - its darkness, emptiness, captivity - know we need this Savior King to liberate us.
 - We journey to Jesus with the Magi offering our whole self saying:
 - I want Jesus to save all of me from me. To serve him, not sin.
 - That's true liberty. That true life. Jesus, I am yours. All yours.

Those who see the Savior King of all, give him their all.