

“THE MAGI RESPONDS TO THE CHRIST-CHILD”
MATTHEW 2:1-15

INTRO: ABOVE ALL OTHER THINGS, **CHRISTMAS SHOULD BE A TIME FOR CHRISTIANS TO RESPOND TO JESUS CHRIST BIBLICALLY!** Many times we get caught up in the hustle of the season and forget what the season is all about and end up NOT RESPONDING TO CHRIST BIBLICALLY! (Lady at the drug store). In our text we see the account of the MAGI traveling miles and years to see the Christ-child. There are some great lessons from this account we can and should learn. The way the MAGI responded to the birth of the Christ-Child is a clear biblical model for how WE SHOULD RESPOND TO CHRIST TODAY!

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SOME FACTS ABOUT THE TEXT:

- 1) Herod – Vs. 1: He was “Herod the Great” who was an extremely wicked man. He was named the King of the Jews by the Romans in 37 AD. He loved architecture, huge buildings and eloquence. Many of the ruins found around Israel today, including the Temple, are the result of Herod’s work.
- 2) The Wise Men – Vs. 1: They were NOT kings! They were MAGI, MAGICIANS AND ASTROLOGERS. There is NO number given about how many there were. They were from Persia (not the Orient) who had knowledge of scripture probably dating back to Daniel (Daniel 5:11).
- 3) The Star – Vs. 2: The star could NOT have been a supernova or a conjunction of the planets as the modern scientists say, mainly because of how the star moved and settled over one place. It was a SUPERNATURAL REALITY just like the SHEKINA GLORY that led Israel in the wilderness in the OT as described in Exodus 13:21.
- 4) The Chief Priests – Vs. 4: The leaders in the Temple (Sadducees).
- 5) The Scribes – Vs. 4: The authorities on the Jewish law (Pharisees).
- 6) The House – Vs. 11: The dwelling place of Mary and Joseph after they left the cave in which Christ was born.

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HOW DID THE MAGI RESPOND TO CHRIST?

I. THE MAGI HUMBLLED THEMSELVES BEFORE THE CHRIST-CHILD

- A. A Sign of Great Respect
- B. An Act Recognizing Greatness
- C. A Lesson to Learn
 1. Humility is the FIRST step to becoming a Christian.
 2. Humility is the KEY to being used and honored by God.
 3. Humility is the FOUNDATION of God’s blessing.
 4. Humility is a RESPONSE we should give to Christ ALWAYS, but particularly during the CHRISTMAS SEASON.

QUESTION: ARE YOU HUMBLING YOURSELF BEFORE GOD THIS CHRISTMAS? HOW?

II. THE MAGI WORSHIPPED THE CHRIST-CHILD

- A. A Response to Deity
- B. A Desire of God – John 4:23
 1. God desires worship – To exalt Him and ascribe worth to Him.
 2. God desires TRUE worship – From the Heart
- C. A Lesson to Learn
 1. God is Displeased with acts of outward or ritual worship without TRUE INWARD SINCERITY! Isaiah 66:1-4
 2. God Deserves our most sincere worship!
 3. God Desires our worship to be genuine

QUESTION: ARE YOU WORSHIPPING GOD SINCERELY THIS CHRISTMAS? HOW?

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE MAGI GAVE GIFTS TO THE CHRIST-CHILD

- A. The Gifts they gave were out of respect and recognition of Who Christ really was.
- B. The Gifts they gave were symbolic of them giving their PERSONAL LIVES to Him.
- C. The Gifts they gave were the best that could be given...not just the best they had to give! THINK OF THAT!
 1. Gold – A Gift for a King: It was a royal metal that was much more rare and valuable than it is today. THEY GAVE THE VERY BEST!
 2. Frankincense – A Gift for a Priest: It was a mixture of oils that was used to anoint Priests. It was also used as an offering of thanksgiving and praise in Temple Worship. THEY GAVE THE VERY BEST!

3. Myrrh – A Gift for a Savior: It was BITTER and was used to prepare dead bodies for burial. THEY GAVE THE VERY BEST!

D. A Lesson to Learn

1. The gifts the MAGI gave were material or financially based gifts that were of extreme high quality and was the sign of their dedication to Christ.

2. The proper way to respond to the birth of the Christ-child is to give the very best gift we can to Him. We do that through the Local Church since the Church is the Body of Christ! Think of it, **when the MAGI saw the little body of Christ they gave to Him. So we do the same as we consider the Church as the body of Christ.**

3. The proper way to give to Christ during the Christmas season is that of a financial gift.

QUESTION: **WHAT EXTRA SPECIAL FINANCIAL GIFT ARE YOU GIVING TO CHRIST THIS CHRISTMAS?**

ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION: It is not hard to draw an application from this text for us today! As we take and look upon the Lord Jesus Christ, our proper response is to HUMBLE ourselves before Him, WORSHIP Him, and GIVE to Him. **ARE YOU READY TO RESPOND TO CHRIST BIBLICALLY?**