

Worshipping the Christ of Christmas Matthew 2:1-13

Introduction:

1. With Christmas just two days away, it always amazes me how the world gets into Christmas without even a thought or clue as to what it is really all about.
2. Christmas is supposed to be all about Christ. Christ was born in Bethlehem, but then 33 years later willingly laid down His life on the cross for us. He fully paid our sin debt so that we could be forgiven.
3. This is what Christmas is all about. It is about worshiping the Son of God and the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. It is about worshiping, praising, and adoring Christ.
 - **Illustration:** Three days after Christmas will be my son Caleb's birthday. Imagine if we honored his brother Clayton that day and forgot all about Caleb. We would never do that, but why? It's because it's Caleb's birthday, therefore he is the center of attention.
4. Here in our text there was a group of men that fully realized what Bethlehem was all about. They're called "*wise men.*" They were looking for the One born in Bethlehem called "*Emmanuel... God with us.*" vs. 1-2a
5. Why were they looking for Jesus Christ? Was it so they could drink eggnog, exchange presents, and get a day off work? No! Look at verse 2b. It says, "*...and are come to worship him.*" This is what it is all about. vs. 11
6. Worship is the total adoring response of man to God. God is looking for people to worship Him. John 4:23
7. Jesus (God incarnate) - 2,000 years after these wise men worshiped Him - is still looking for people who will worship Him. How can you worship Christ this Christmas as the wise men did many years ago?

First, by acting on the truth of God – vs. 1-6

1. These men wanted to worship Christ, and God's Word told them how they could do it – go to Bethlehem. They went to worship Christ based upon the truth of God's Word.
2. When we approach God to worship Him, there is a divinely appointed way we are to worship Him. We are to worship according to His truth (John 4:23-24). God is not interested in any form of worship that is not based upon His truth.
3. We don't come before God our way. We must go God's way.
4. You hear people say, "There are many roads to God. We are all praying to the same God." This is wrong thinking. There is only one way to approach God in worship, and that is His way (not our self-appointed way).
 - **Illustration:** People say, "That is too narrow-minded." Well, two plus two is only 4, it will never be five. A "C" on the piano will never be a "G." Is that narrow-minded?

5. Satan has many counterfeit ways to approach God in worship, but they aren't based on the truth of God's Word. They are rooted in satanic lies. How do we approach God in worship? John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5
6. We can only approach Him through the merits and shed blood of Christ. There is no other way. We must worship Him in truth, and Jesus is the truth. If you come to worship Him through the dead saints in heaven, through your good works, or through religious rituals, it is not acceptable.
 - If we think, "I'm doing this ritual, repeating this religious phrase, lighting this candle (etc.), and therefore God is really going to hear me," we're off base. No, He hears you when you come to Him sincerely through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Second, by establishing worship as your priority – vs. 7-9

1. Notice the phrase "*search diligently*" in verse 8. They did exactly that. They sought for Christ and worshiped Him. It took time and effort, but worshiping Christ was the most important thing in their lives.
2. Where is your worship of Christ on your priority list? Do you spend time with Him every day, worshiping Him in prayer? Have other things maybe crowded out your personal one-on-one time with Him each day?
3. Hebrews 11:6 is so insightful. When your worship of Christ is the hub of your life, everything else will fall into place.
4. When you forsake your place of worship for other things, you will feel the negative impact in every other area of your life.

Third, by deriving your joy from your worship – vs. 10

1. These men rejoiced because they could worship Jesus Christ. It was the source of their joy.
2. So many times we find our rejoicing in things other than our worship of the Lord (material things, cars, houses, money, etc.). But what happens when these things are gone? Then the source of our joy has been cut off.
3. Here is a wonderful truth – when your joy is based on your relationship with Christ and your worship of Him, nobody or nothing can affect your joy but you! We have a joy that Jesus described as being a joy that nobody can take from us.

Fourth, by giving of yourself to Christ – vs. 11

1. They worshiped Him, opened up their treasures, and presented unto Him gifts. They worshiped Christ through their giving. Giving back to God of our material blessings is one of the most powerful forms of worship there is.
2. The Bible teaches, "*where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*" Their hearts were worshiping Christ, so they willingly gave of their treasure. I don't think these guys gave reluctantly or grudgingly.
 - "I guess I have to give this frankincense to Jesus. He expects it." No! In fact, nobody expected it. They gave because they **wanted** to.

3. As they presented their gifts to the King of kings, I believe their hearts were enthralled and filled with joy, with thanksgiving flowing and running over in their spirits.
4. I've seen saints that have served God and given sacrificially to the work of God for years, and they will say to me, "I'm ready to go home. I want to go to heaven."
 - Why would they want to die and go to heaven? It's because **that** is where their treasure is. Their whole life has consisted of worshiping Jesus through their giving, and every time they give something, they're laying up treasure in heaven. So that is where their hearts are.

Fifth, by obeying Christ – vs. 12

1. God said, "Don't go back that way," and they said, "Yes, God," and obeyed.
2. When your heart is in tune with God through daily worship, you will want to obey God and do what He says to do. Jesus said, "*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*"
3. As we worship Christ and fall more in love with Him, worship will be the result. Think about it – the closer you are to somebody, and the more you love her, the more you want to please her.
4. Christian, are there some areas of your life that are beginning to slip? Are there some areas of sin that are creeping back in? You can probably trace that back to your prayer life and your worship of Christ. Worship of Christ produces a willingness to obey Christ.

In Conclusion:

1. Let's all take a lesson from the wise men. Christmas is not about shopping, and gifts, and decorations.
2. It is about worshiping the Christ of Christmas.
 - **Illustration:** The story of Mary and Martha - Martha forgot what it was all about. It is easy to allow this to happen.