

Theme: The central question for every human is how they see and respond to Christ - whether with faith and worship like the Magi or with fear and rejection like Herod.

I. Intro - Christ Through Their Eyes

- A. We have spent four weeks looking at Christ through the eyes of four different people
 - 1. John - the Risen, Reigning, and Returning Christ
 - 2. Adam and Eve - The Seed of Hope
 - 3. Ezekiel - Our Eternal Lord (who rules & blesses us)
 - 4. The shepherds - The Humble King
- B. We could trace this out with many more people as well
- C. Like a huge, gorgeous diamond, each turn reveals a new facet of Who Christ is and of His glory!
- D. Tonight we will wrap it up by briefly looking at the well-known story of the Magi and King Herod

II. The Magi - The King To Be Worshipped

- A. The Magi traveled far to see Jesus

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:1-2

 - 1. Magi - wise men, astrologers;
 - 2. Perhaps their knowledge comes from Daniel?
 - 3. They have followed a star to find Him - to worship
 - 4. They see Christ as a King worthy of worship!

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, **they were overjoyed.** ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Matthew 2:9-11

- 5. After they hear it will be in Bethlehem, they resume their search
 - 6. When the star settles, they are overjoyed!
 - 7. When they actually see Jesus, they are not put off by his humble appearance - they worship Him!
 - 8. They then give the famous gifts - as a sign of their faith and worship!
 - 9. This is a pattern for all to follow - seek for Christ, worship Him, give yourself to Him!
- B. The Magi - a pattern for all to follow!
 - 1. When they learn of Christ, they seek to find Him!
 - 2. When they come to Christ, they receive Him in faith and worship Him!
 - 3. They do not just worship with words - they give themselves and all they have to Him!

III. Herod - The Threat To Be Rejected

- A. Herod hears of Jesus and pretends to want to worship
Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."
Matthew 2:7-8
1. Herod acts interested in finding out more about Jesus
 2. He tells the Magi he wants to go and worship Jesus
 3. But Herod does not receive news of Jesus with joy, but rather with fear and loathing
 - a. God warns the Magi not to go back to Herod
 - b. God warns Joseph to flee with Mary and Jesus
 4. One of the saddest passages of Scripture is here in the Christmas story - Herod slaying the young boys
 - a. Herod is furious, for he fears and loathes Jesus as a rival King
 - b. He can not directly find Jesus - so he has a lot of people slain
- B. The contrast between the Magi and Herod
1. The Magi will travel the world over to see Christ; Herod will not go anywhere
 2. The Magi respond to Jesus with faith, Herod with fear
 3. The Magi are overjoyed about Jesus, Herod is filled with rage

4. The Magi worship Jesus, Herod refuses to submit, even if it destroys others
5. In short, the Magi respond wisely, Herod like a fool!

IV. Applying the Word - Christ through My Eyes

- A. The key question is not how the Magi or Herod respond
- B. The key question - Who is Christ Through My Eyes?
1. Jesus asked, "Who do the people say that I am?"
 2. He then asked, "Who do YOU say that I am?"
- C. We have listened, sung, and prayed about Jesus tonight
- D. Who is He through my eyes?
1. A threat? A rival? An impediment to my desires?
 - a. Thankfully most will not act as evilly as Herod!
 - b. But our rejection of Christ diminishes our soul, our joy, and the world around us
 2. The King, the Savior, the Redeemer, worthy of my worship, and all that I am and have?
 3. Jesus did not leave us the option of no response - Who is He through my eyes?
- E. Respond to Christ in faith and worship tonight, receiving and passing on the Light!
- F. Silent Night/Candle lighting

Christ Through My Eyes

Matthew 2:1-18

December 24, 2021

Silent Night/Candle Lighting

Ephesians 6:23-24

Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas; faith; sin

Peace to all who are brothers and sisters in Christ, and ²⁴ grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.
Ephesians 6:23–24

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” ³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.’” ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming

to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. ¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” ¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” Matthew 2:1–18

Concluding prayer - Bret

Lord, tonight we have considered the question “Who is Jesus through my eyes?” Pray that the truth of Who Jesus actually is - which we have read in Scripture, sang in hymns, and enacted in receiving and passing on the light that represents Him as the True Light of the world - will penetrate into each and every heart here. May we respond as the Magi - with joy, adoration, and full worship. I ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.