

## SERMON-BASED STUDY: O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

**Matthew 2:1-16, 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, <sup>2</sup> saying, “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.” <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> “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.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.

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

<sup>13</sup> Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

<sup>16</sup> Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.

### Notes:

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### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This week we were reminded that people respond to Jesus in different ways. What are the different ways people respond to Jesus? Why do you think people respond in these different ways?
- 2 Share a time when you saw someone respond to Jesus the way King Herod or the Chief Priest and Scribes did?
- 3 What does it look like to come to Jesus with joyful adoration?

## DIGGING DEEPER

- 4 Looking back at Matthew 2:1-16, what principles can we learn from the wise men? Why would they come to worship a king?
- 5 Why would they be so willing to give such extravagant gifts? What are you willing to give to Jesus?
- 6 How does God use our gifts for His purposes?

**A** *Psalm 96:2-4, ESV – <sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. <sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! <sup>4</sup> For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.*

**1 Peter 3:15, ESV – <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,**

- 7 Looking at Psalm 96:2-4, we see a series of commands: to sing to the Lord, to bless His name, and to tell of His salvation. How are worship and telling His story (evangelism) related?

8 What does Peter mean by “always being prepared to make a defense”?

9 Share a time that your worship of God led to an opportunity to share the good news with someone?

## TAKING IT HOME

During this season of celebration, let us remember to not only worship God, but to share His story with those around us. Take some time to worship and celebrate as a group, giving thanks to God for His grace and love. Pray for those in your sphere of influence, that they will see Christ in your life as you worship Him.

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1 Samuel 20:6

Isaiah 55:12

Micah 5:2

Matthew 22:1-14, 28:18-20

Acts 1:8

Romans 10:13-14

1 Peter 1:8