

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

INTRODUCTION

- Two responses to Christ by two groups of people in two regions around the Sea of Galilee, during Jesus' earthly ministry:
 - Matt. 14:34-36—the people of Genessaret _____ the Lord.
 - Matt. 8:28, 34—the people of the Gergesenes rejected the Lord.
- We see those same two responses in the lives of people going back to Jesus' birth (John 1:10-14):
 - Most people in the nation of Israel rejected Christ (vs. 11).
 - A _____ (in/out of Israel) received Him (vs. 12).
- We meet some of those few in our text.
 - Three wealthy and powerful Gentiles.
 - "Wise men" (magi) = watchers of the _____.
 - Probably Persians.
 - Familiar with the Hebrew _____.
 - Knew that this new star shining in the western sky over the land of Israel was a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy:
 - Num. 24:17: the star = a _____.
 - Isaiah 60:1-3: "rise" = to ascend in the heavens.
- Each of us has the same choice to make, to receive or reject the Lord:
 - If you have never received the Lord as your personal Savior, you should receive Him right away, by _____ the gospel (John 1:12).
 - As believers, we should live in a constant state of receptivity to the Lord and His will because "wise men still seek Him."
- Two applications for believers regarding a life of faith and seeking the Lord:
 1. **To seeking the Lord in sweet, personal _____ this Christmas season.**
 2. **To seeking the Lord daily in a life of _____ in the days before His return.**
- Four characteristics of a _____ lifestyle of faith, illustrated in the actions of the wise men, that we should imitate if we wish to properly prepare for our Lord's coming again:
 - I. **THEY _____ UP.**
 - Vs. 2, "We have seen His star in the east."
 - Looking up at the sky illustrates a life of faith that includes watching and waiting for the Lord's coming (Luke 21:28, Mark 13:32-37, Titus 2:11-14).

- The seeking believer looks up by:
 - Maintaining a walk of sweet _____ with the Lord,
 - Anticipating being united to Him at His return,
 - Focusing on _____ priorities and heavenly treasures,
 - Preparing eagerly for His arrival by getting his house of personal stewardship in order,
 - Staying busy about the Master's _____,
 - _____ His commands,
 - Praying without ceasing,
 - Redeeming the time.

II. THEY _____ HOME.

- Vs. 2, "...and are come to worship Him."
- They turned their backs on their homes, possessions, families to make the very long journey to see Jesus because He was more _____ than anything they were leaving behind.
- In the same way, the seeking believer is willing to turn his back on things of this _____ to seek after Jesus because He is far more important, worthy, worth having than anything we can leave behind (Matthew 16:24-27).

III. THEY _____ TO GOD.

- The wise men followed God's leading for their journey every step of the way.
- In the same way, wise believers still seek God's _____, listen to His voice, and follow His lead.
- One of the primary ways we walk by faith as we wait for Jesus to come is by walking with Him daily in His _____ (2 Peter 1:19).

IV. THEY LAVISHED _____ ON JESUS.

- Vs. 10, they praised God with exceeding great joy.
- Vs. 11, they gave the Lord Jesus their very best.
 - _____ is suitable for a king.
 - Frankincense was typically offered to deity in _____.
 - _____ was a costly spice used for embalming.
- The wise men worshipped the child Jesus as King, God, and _____; and dedicated their resources to Him accordingly.
- In their example, we see how we should be living as we wait for Lord's return. Those who live by faith lavish worship on Jesus.

CONCLUSION

- Are you _____ the Lord like the wise men did?
- How _____ are you?
- **"Wise men still seek Him."**