

## Worship the King Matthew 2:1-12

“Now, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men (Magi) from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.**’”

Matthew 2:1-2

Matthew’s gospel presents us with real worship and feigned worship of Jesus.

“Then, the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. **And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’** And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.”

Matthew 27:27-31

What can we learn about true worship from the Magi?

### **I. The Magi are Singularly Focused Worshippers**

Matthew 2:1-8

“Now, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men (Magi) from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.**’”

Matthew 2:1-2

“At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore, they stood before the king. And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of

them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.”

Daniel 1:18-20

“Daniel answered the king and said, ‘No wise men, enchanters, magicians and astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.’”

Daniel 2:27

“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like the son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”

Daniel 7:13-14

**Notice the clarity of their intent:**

“For we saw his star when it rose, and have come to worship him.”

They were Magi on a mission.

“The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.”

Matthew 12:41-42

**True Worship Begins With Genuinely Seeking the Lord.**

“Seek the Lord while he may be found; *call* upon him while he is near” (Isaiah 55:6)

“Now *set your mind and heart* to seek the Lord your God.” (1 Chronicles 22:19)

“If then you have been raised with Christ, *seek* the things that are above, where

Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. *Set your minds* on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” (Colossians 3:1-2)

## **II. The Magi are deeply sincere worshippers.**

### **Matthew 2:3-8**

“For we saw his star when it rose and have come **to worship Him.**”

Matthew 2:2

**proskunesai** = “the custom of prostrating oneself before a person and kissing his feet, the hem of his garment, and the ground...”

“When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.”

Matthew 2:3-4

“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.’ ”Matthew 2:8

“Millions call themselves by His name, it is true, and pay some token homage to Him, but a simple test will show how little He is really honored among them. Let the average man be put to the proof on the question of who or what is ABOVE, and his true position will be exposed. Let him be forced into making a choice between God and money, between God and men, between God and personal ambition, God and self, God and human love, and God will take second place every time. Those other things will be exalted above. However, the man may protest, the proof is in the choice he makes day after day throughout his life.”

A.W. Tozer, *the Pursuit of God*

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” Matthew 6:5-6

### **III. The Magi are extremely overjoyed worshippers.**

#### **Matthew 2:9-10**

“After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went on before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the great star, **they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.**” Matthew 2:9-10

“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab...”

Numbers 24:17

### **IV. The Magi are self-surrendering worshippers.**

#### **Matthew 2:9-10**

“And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him.”

Numbers 2:11

“We read of no greater faith than this in the whole volume of the Bible. It is a faith that deserves to be placed side by side with that of the penitent thief. The thief saw one dying the death of a malefactor, and yet prayed to Him, and "called Him Lord." The wise men saw a new-born babe on the lap of a poor woman, and yet worshiped Him and confessed that He was Christ. Blessed indeed are those that can believe in this fashion!” J.C. Ryle

I appeal to you, therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual (reasonable) worship.” Romans 12:1

## **V. The Magi are deliberately generous worshippers.**

### **Matthew 2:9-10**

“Then opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” Matthew 2:11

Psalms 72:10 “May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! May all the kings fall down before him, all nations serve him.”

Isaiah 49:7 “Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers; Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Isaiah 60:3 “And nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”

“Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold and a very great quantity of spices and precious stones.” 1 Kings 10:10

“Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bring a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with spices as is the burial custom of the Jews.” John 19:39

“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect is tempted as we are yet without sin. Let us then with confidence, draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in a time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16