**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Wisdom of Christmas |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Matthew 2:1-12 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2326 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
	1. Matthew 2:1-12
		1. King Herod did not want to worship Jesus; he wanted to kill Him.
	2. There is a lot that we do not know about these wise men.
		1. We don’t know how many there were.
			1. Some say that there were three because they brought three different types of gifts, but the Bible doesn’t specifically say.
		2. We don’t know if they rode on camels.
			1. Some scholars say that they probably rode on Arabian horses.
		3. We don’t know what country they came from.
			1. They most likely came from Babylon.
		4. We don’t have to know these things because if we did, then the Bible would have told us.
	3. The Bible does tell us that they were wise men.
		1. The biblical word for this is “magi.”
		2. These men were students of Scripture, of prophecy, and of the stars in the sky.
		3. If they were from Babylon, then they most likely would have been students of the prophet Daniel.
			1. Daniel had spent a great deal of time in Babylon and was a great and very wise prophet.
	4. Another thing that we do not know is what the star was.
		1. Some astronomers say it was a super nova or an alignment of the planets that caused an excessive brightness in the sky at that particular time.
			1. This is impossible because it moved and led the wise men.
		2. Others say that it was a comet.
			1. But it could not have been a comet because a comet flashes across the sky and is gone.
			2. A comet would not have stayed in the sky for months as these men traveled about three hundred miles from the East.
		3. Alfred Edersheim, a Messianic Jewish scholar, tells us that the word “star” has a number of meanings in the Bible, and it comes from the root word that literally means “brilliance.”
			1. Most likely, this brilliance was the Shekinah glory of God.
				1. This makes perfect sense because the glory of God led people in the Old Testament.

A pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day led the children of Israel through the wilderness.

Exodus 13:21

This was called the Shekinah glory of God.

It was a physical manifestation of God’s glory.

It moved and guided them through the wilderness.

* + - 1. When Solomon dedicated the Temple, the Shekinah glory of God came into the Holy of Holies.
				1. 2 Chronicles 7:1-2
			2. Before the Babylonians invaded Israel, the prophet Ezekiel told how the Shekinah glory of God departed the Temple.
				1. Ezekiel 10:18
				2. Ezekiel witnessed that glory as it moved onto the Mount of Olives and went up and disappeared.

Ezekiel 11:23

* + - * 1. Ezekiel described the glory of the Lord as a brilliance.

Ezekiel 10:4

* + - 1. The night Jesus was born, the glory of the Lord shone around the shepherds and over the place where the young child lay.
				1. It appeared to the wise men in the East and led them to the house where the young child was.
				2. Luke 2:9
	1. These men were exceedingly wise because they sought out the Lord Jesus Christ to worship Him.
		1. The wisest thing that we could ever do at Christmastime or any other time is to worship Jesus.
			1. There are many people who want the joys of Christmas without the worship of Jesus.
				1. This is impossible.
				2. We may have a good time, but we will never know the joys of Christmas until we learn to worship the Lord Jesus Christ.
	2. The wise men were so interested in worshipping the Lord Jesus that they did so in spite of great difficulty.
		1. Matthew 2:1
		2. The difficulty of distance
			1. Babylon was about three hundred miles away.
		3. The difficulty of discomfort
			1. They traveled over rugged, inhospitable terrain to worship the Lord.
				1. Some today don’t even go to church when it rains.
		4. The difficulty of danger
			1. King Herod had all the little boy babies murdered.
				1. Matthew 2:16
			2. King Herod said that he wanted to know where Jesus was so that he might go and worship Him.
				1. He didn’t want to worship Jesus; he wanted to murder Him.
			3. Herod had already murdered a couple of wives and three of his sons.
			4. Since they were in Herod’s jurisdiction, they had to deal with him.
		5. In spite of these difficulties, they sought to worship the Lord Jesus Christ.
	3. Does worship mean that much to us, or do we have a take it and leave it attitude?
		1. Jeremiah 29:13
		2. May God have mercy upon half-hearted worship.
			1. If He is worth anything, then He is worth everything.
		3. Worship means “worth-ship.”
			1. What is Jesus worth to you?
		4. The biggest cult in America is the cult of the comfortable.
			1. We just want to take it easy.
	4. Today’s message will show us how to have wisdom this Christmas as we look at how the wise men sought Jesus and what they brought Him.
1. how the wise men sought jesus
	1. Matthew 2:1
	2. There were three things that helped them find the Lord Jesus that can also help us seek Him today:
		1. The ministry of the Spirit.
			1. The Holy Spirit put in the hearts of these men to seek the Lord Jesus.
			2. The Bible says that no man seeks after God.
				1. Romans 3:11
			3. The only reason we seek Him is because He first sought us.
				1. 1 John 4:19
			4. It is God who puts the desire in our hearts to seek Him.
				1. God put the desire in the hearts of these wise men to seek Him.
			5. Worship is a desire planted in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.
			6. How do you know that God is seeking you?
				1. 2 Peter 3:9
				2. John 1:9
				3. By the Holy Spirit of God, if you will listen, there is a still small voice in you that is inclining your heart to worship Him.

The voice says, “Come to Jesus.”

* + 1. The message of the Scripture.
			1. Matthew 2:2-6
				1. King Herod brought in the priests and scribes to tell him where the Messiah would be born.
			2. Matthew 2:5-6
				1. The Bible prophesied in detail things about the Lord Jesus Christ, and one of these was His birthplace.
			3. These men had the Word of God.
				1. The prophecy in Micah 5:2 tells that Jesus Christ would be born in Bethlehem.
				2. If the wise men came from Babylon, then they also had the prophesies of the prophet Daniel, who told when Jesus would come.

Daniel 9:24-27

* + - 1. If you want to find Jesus this Christmas season, not only is there the ministry of the Spirit, but there is also the message of the Scriptures.
				1. Open the Bible and read.

Many people missed His first coming because they simply did not read, believe, or obey the Scriptures.

We do not have any record that the scribes and priests went to worship Him.

They knew where He was, but they still didn’t go.

We don’t have any record that Herod went.

* + - 1. The message is plain.
				1. We can believe it intellectually and still miss it altogether.

There are unbelieving believers who never act on what they say they believe.

* + - * 1. The Scriptures clearly and plainly described His first coming, and they clearly and plainly describe His second coming.

Just as some missed His first coming, there will be those who will miss His second coming.

They are not listening to the ministry of the Spirit and the message of the Scriptures.

* + 1. The miracle of the star.
			1. Matthew 2:10
			2. The Shekinah glory of God led them step by step.
			3. When you set your heart to find God and to know Him, then God will do whatever it takes so that you might know Him.
				1. It may not be a miracle of a star; it might be some other kind of miracle.
				2. It might be that God will send a messenger to you.

It might be that you will hear the urging of a next-door neighbor.

* + - * 1. But God will reveal His glory to you.
			1. God will not lead or guide someone who does not want Him.
				1. For example, there is no record of the star appearing to Herod.

Herod didn’t want to know the Lord.

* + - * 1. If anyone wants to know Him, they can know Him.
1. what the wise men brought jesus
	1. These men were wise in what they brought Him.
		1. The Bible says that they brought Him gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
			1. Matthew 2:11
		2. These gifts were not incidental, they were fundamental.
		3. Why these three specific gifts, and why are they mentioned in Scripture?
			1. 2 Timothy 3:16
			2. There is nothing in Scripture that is not important.
	2. Gold speaks of His sovereign dominion.
		1. Matthew 2:2, 6
			1. In verse 6, the word “governor” means “ruler.”
		2. The wise men knew that the child was a King.
			1. If we want to have wisdom this Christmas, then we need to understand that Jesus is Lord.
		3. Gold was the most precious metal they knew.
		4. In that day, gold was used to signify a king.
			1. The Bible speaks of crowns of gold.
				1. Revelation 4:4
			2. Daniel said that Messiah would be a King.
				1. He speaks of Messiah the prince.

Daniel 9:25

* + - 1. The prophet Isaiah said that He was to be a King.
				1. Isaiah 9:7
				2. We will never know the meaning of Christmas until we crown Him King.

Luke 1:33

* + 1. When we deal with Jesus, we are dealing with sovereignty.
			1. He is worthy of our tribute.
				1. We pay tribute to earthly kings and governments.

Matthew 22:21

* + - * 1. We render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s.
				2. Have you rendered to Jesus the things that are His?

Have you taken the crown from your head and put the crown upon His head?

* + - 1. In everyone’s heart, there is a throne.
				1. When self is on the throne, Christ is on the cross.
				2. When Christ is on the throne, self is on the cross.
		1. These men were wise because they recognized His sovereign dominion.
			1. Matthew 2:2
	1. Frankincense speaks of His sinless Deity.
		1. Not only is He King, but He is also God.
		2. Matthew 2:11
		3. Frankincense is one of the ingredients in a sweet perfume that was used in the tabernacle and the temple for one purpose: the worship of God.
			1. Exodus 30:37
				1. God said that it should not be used for any other purpose.
		4. They worshipped Him as King and as God.
			1. Matthew 2:11
			2. If the baby born in Bethlehem is not God, then to worship Him would be blasphemy.
				1. The Bible says that we are to worship God and to have no other gods before us.

Exodus 20:3

* + - * 1. Revelation 19:10

An angel appeared to John, and in awe John fell on his face to worship him.

The angel stopped him and told him to worship God.

* + 1. If Jesus is not God, we have no business worshipping Him.
		2. If Jesus is worshipped in the Bible but we do not worship Him, we are not doing what the Bible says.
		3. Jesus is either God, or He is not.
			1. He is God!
		4. 1 Timothy 3:16
		5. We will never know Christmas as we ought until we see His sovereign dominion and His sinless Deity.
		6. Isaiah 9:6
	1. Myrrh speaks of His sacrificial death.
		1. Matthew 2:11
		2. When Jesus was dying on the cross, He was offered myrrh to drink.
			1. It was a bitter herb.
			2. Mark 15:23
		3. In Bible times, one of the bitter spices they used to embalm the dead was myrrh.
			1. This was a strange thing to give a baby.
		4. We do not know if the wise men knew with precision what they were doing, but we do know that God the Holy Spirit was working in the whole thing.
			1. This was a prophecy not only of His sovereign dominion and sinless Deity, but also of His sacrificial death.
				1. This was a baby that was born to die.
				2. They anticipated and recognized His death upon the cross.
		5. In the Bible, there is no record that the early church ever celebrated Christmas.
			1. It’s not wrong to celebrate Christmas, but the early church had a memorial (the Lord’s Supper) to remember His death, not His birth.
				1. The more carnal a person is, the more they will make of His birth, and the less they will make of His death.

They love the cradle; they don’t love the cross.

* + 1. The Lord Jesus is the only one who ever chose to die.
			1. No one else has ever chosen to die.
			2. Some may choose the time of their death, but all people are going to die.
			3. One out of one people will die.
			4. John 10:18
			5. Jesus didn’t have to die because there was no sin in Him.
				1. Romans 6:23
1. CONCLUSION
	1. Do you want to be wise this Christmas?
		1. Be wise like these men in the way that they sought Jesus and in what they brought Him.
			1. The gold tells us that our wealth belongs to Jesus.
				1. Don’t get the idea that we have done Him a favor if we give Him a dime out of every dollar.

The whole dollar is His; He just lets us use it.

* + - * 1. It is all His.

Psalm 50:12

This fact bothered the rich young ruler, and he went away sorrowfully.

Mark 10:17-22

* + - 1. He is God, and our worship belongs to Him.
				1. We need to fall on our faces before Him.
				2. He is Lord of lords and King of kings.
			2. He is Savior, and our witness belongs to Him.
				1. We need to receive Him, and then go tell others about Him.
	1. A wise Christmas would be:
		1. To seek Jesus the way these men sought Him.
		2. To bring to Him what they brought to Him.
		3. To recognize who He is and to acknowledge that your wealth, worship, and witness are His.
	2. Do you want to have a real Christmas?
		1. His commandments are not grievous.
			1. 1 John 5:3
		2. We serve a wonderful Savior.
	3. 2 Corinthians 5:17
		1. Would you like a brand-new start?
	4. If you are wise, then you will know that He is seeking you today through His Spirit, through the Scriptures, and through this message.
		1. He wants to save you.
	5. Isaiah 1:18
	6. Romans 10:13
	7. Romans 9:33
	8. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
	9. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
		1. Romans 3:23
		2. Romans 10:9-10
		3. Acts 16:31
		4. John 3:16