



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Series Title: The King is Coming!

Lesson Title: Wise Men Still Seek Jesus

Key Scriptures: Matthew 2:1-12

Introduction

During the Christmas season, when we reflect on the glorious birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, the Wise Men mentioned in Matthew 2:1-12 play a key role in the overall story. While they oftentimes appear on Christmas cards, are the subject of some of our most beloved Christmas carols and are often seen in the Nativity scene standing next to Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus, the Wise Men played a very significant role in welcoming the King of Kings into the world.

They were men who sought after Jesus, worshipped Jesus and honored Him as King. When we look at their story, we can gain a lot of insight as to why they were indeed Wise Men and why we should follow their example and continue to seek Jesus.

Wise Men Still Seek His Will

In the story of Jesus' birth, the Wise Men arrived at the place where Jesus was born because they followed the star God placed in the sky. The same God who orchestrated the supernatural events that led to the birth of Jesus was still at work when He placed the star in the sky for the Wise Men to follow.

Even after seeing the star from their home town, the Wise Men could have ignored it, decided to go another way or even relied on their own understanding to navigate, but instead, they put God's plan above all, followed the star and traveled some 900 miles west across the desert from Babylon to Jerusalem to see King Jesus – and we can learn a great deal from their obedience.

The Bible says in Psalm 37:23 that “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord...” These “steps” are God's will for our lives – the things He desires for us to do so that we ultimately end up in a place of blessing, victory and favor.

There are many people who have objectives for your life – but God's Will is the final, best, most powerful plan that brings blessing to your life.

Proverbs 14:12

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

As followers of Christ, we should desire to know and live in God's Will. We find it through His Word, the Holy Spirit and our Pastors and the people God has put in place to help us reach our divine destiny.

Jeremiah 3:15

“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.”

As believers, we must learn to both seek and embrace God's Will in every situation, relationship, decision, circumstance and more. When we do this and walk in faith and obedience, we, like the Wise Men, will see God do amazing things in and through our lives.

Wise Men Still Worship

From the onset of their journey, the Wise Men had a desire in their hearts to see the newborn King so they could worship Him.

Matthew 2:1-2

“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”

Matthew 2:11

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

When the Wise Men saw Jesus, they recognized that they were in the presence of royalty. Although Jesus was a newborn baby, they understood that before their very eyes was The King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the God of their salvation and He deserved all of their worship.

We should have the same mindset today when it comes to worshipping Jesus. Just think about it, the Wise Men were willing to leave their families and homes, travel over 900 miles on the backs of animals, to worship Jesus. We should strive to have that type of hunger to be in God’s presence too because something powerful happens when we worship the Lord. In fact, God is seeking worshippers.

John 4:23-24

“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

Why is it so important that we worship the Lord? Worship keeps your heart in a state of being yielded to the Holy Spirit. Worship postures you to hear, receive and be used by God. Worshippers come to know Jesus in a greater way. Because worshippers love God, seek God, honor God, praise God, trust God – they draw closer to Him and experience Him in a way that transforms who they are and every area of their lives.

There is a special blessing reserved for those that worship God!

Hebrews 11:6

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

Wise Men Still Give

When the Wise Men saw Jesus' star in the sky, they set out on a journey to find Him. They traveled for approximately two months, and brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Each type of gift was symbolic. The **gold** was given to recognize Him as royalty. **Frankincense** was a type of incense used in temple worship and was mixed with the oil used to anoint priests. This was given to Jesus to recognize Him as our High Priest. Lastly, **myrrh** was an expensive perfume used as a medicinal agent and also to prepare bodies for burial. This was given to Him to recognize the manner in which He would save us. These were all special, meaningful gifts – and even today, wise men still give!

Wise Men Still Give In Tithing And Offering

Malachi 3:8-11 says,

8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.

When it comes to God's economy and His plan for financial blessing, it is plain to see that the choice is ours to make. We can either bless God's house by giving tithes and offering, and be blessed ourselves – or we can rob Him and the entire nation by withholding what is rightfully His and suffer the consequences. (Malachi 3:9)

Choosing to give in tithing and offering has many benefits, several of which are outlined in the passage of scripture above.

- In Malachi 3:10, God says that He will "...open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." This is speaking of abundance, overflow, more than enough! When we trust God with our tithing and offering, He will bless us so much that we don't even have room to contain it!
- In Malachi 3:11, God says that He will, "...rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field..." This is speaking of God's divine protection from the "devourer" – that voracious eater, the locust. There are also spiritual devourers (the enemy, our poor choices, etc.) that can rob us of years! But in Joel 2:25 God says, "...and I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten."
- God also promises His protection of the fruit that is growing in the field, that it will grow to full ripeness and not drop from the vine prematurely.

Wise Men Give Of Their Gifts and Talents

God has given each of us gifts, talents, skills and abilities to use to glorify Him. We should be using our God-given gifts to advance the Kingdom! What gifts do you have to give? Whether administration, cooking, organizing, singing, praise dancing, playing an instrument, teaching, coming up with creative worship service programs or any of the other gifts, commit to sharing your gift through the ministry of the local church – Harvest Life Church – to bless God!

Wise Men Are Still In Tune With the Holy Spirit

When the Wise Men were on their way to worship Jesus, King Herod called them into a private meeting. He asked the Wise Men to let him know when they found Jesus so that he too could worship Him. That sounds spiritual right? Well, thank God that the Wise Men were in tune with the Holy Spirit! While they were in Bethlehem, God sent them a dream warning them NOT to go back to Herod – so they went home a different way. Revealing Jesus' location to King Herod could have been catastrophic for Jesus, His earthly family and for all of mankind!

Wise Men are still in tune with the Holy Spirit! I Corinthians 8:2 says, And if any man think that **he knoweth** any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as **he ought to know**. Having the wisdom to understand that we don't know it all will lead us to seek God for His wisdom in situations. When we pray, the Holy Spirit will guide us "into all truth" and give us insight that we don't have access to in the natural. Revelation 2:7 says, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith..!"

Wise Men Still Follow Jesus

Just as the Wise Men of the Bible days followed the light of Jesus' star to find Him, we need to follow Him today! His light still guides us as we navigate through life! Psalm 119:105 says, Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Through the light of God's Word, as we read it in our personal devotions and as we gather corporately to hear the Word of God from our Pastors and teachers – God continually lights the way for us to follow Him into our divine destiny and anointed Kingdom purpose!

Name: _____

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

Introduction

1. **True or False (circle one)** – The Wise Men played a minor role in the overall story of the birth of Jesus.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Wise Men Still Seek His Will

2. **Circle the correct answer** – How did the Wise Men know where to find Jesus?
 - a. They used a GPS
 - b. By following a star in the sky
 - c. They asked someone
 - d. None of the above
3. **Circle the correct answer** – Psalm 37:23 says, “The steps of a good man are _____ by the _____...”
 - a. directed, schedule
 - b. made, feet
 - c. ordered, Lord
 - d. None of the above
4. **True or False (circle one)** – God’s Will is the final, best, most powerful plan that brings blessing to your life.
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. **Fill in the blanks** – Jeremiah 3:15 says, “And I will give you _____ according to mine _____, which shall feed you with knowledge and _____.”

Wise Men Still Worship

6. **Circle the correct answer** – Why is it so important that we worship the Lord?
- a. Worship keeps your heart yielded to the Holy Spirit
 - b. Worship postures you to hear, receive and be used by God
 - c. Worshippers experience God in a way that transforms who they are
 - d. All of the above

Wise Men Still Give

7. **Circle the correct answer** – What was the significance of the gift of frankincense given by the Wise Men?
- a. One of the Wise Men was named Frank
 - b. It was given to recognize Jesus as our High Priest
 - c. Both a and b
 - d. None of the above
8. **Where is this scripture found? (circle one)** “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”
- a. Matthew 3:10
 - b. Mark 3:10
 - c. Malachi 3:10
 - d. None of the above
9. **True or False (circle one)** – God has given each of us gifts, talents, skills and abilities to use to glorify His Kingdom.
- a. True
 - b. False

Wise Men Are Still In Tune With the Holy Spirit

10. **Circle the correct answer.** How were the Wise Men warned not to reveal Jesus' location to King Herod?
- a. They saw a facebook post
 - b. Someone texted them
 - c. God sent them an email
 - d. God sent them a dream
11. **Where is this scripture found? (circle one)** "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith.."
- a. Revelation 7:2
 - b. Revelation 2:7
 - c. Genesis 7:2
 - d. Genesis 2:7

Wise Men Still Follow Jesus

12. **Fill in the blanks.** Psalm 119:105 says, "Thy word is a _____ unto my feet, and a _____ unto my path."