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MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

The Perspective of Christmas

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[SERIES SLIDE]

- PERSON of Christmas... Unique Person of Jesus / God and Man
- PURPOSE of Christmas... Came to deal with our problem / Sin



[TITLE SLIDE]

TODAY... Different Perspectives of different people involved in First Christmas

Wrapped Empty Boxes

- Make it pretty just to make it ugly again...
- Christmas for many is well wrapped Emptiness
- Many find Christmas to be depressing time....
 - Loneliness / Family break down / loss of loved one

So they do other things to GIFT it up... even though they may be hollow on inside

At first Christmas we see a number of people involved with this occasion

- Joseph and Mary involved
- Took a lot of Faith on Joseph's part
- Others involved whose Perspective we want to look at



[Matthew 2.1-2 NKJV]

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, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

FIRST GROUP

- A group of Magi / We don't know how many there were
- One thing is clear... They came to worship Jesus from a long way away

Their PERSPECTIVE was....



Jesus Was Worth Their Worship

- Jesus was worth the inconvenience to get to where He was - to worship
- **It took extremely long time to get to Jesus...**
 - Jesus is a Child by time they Arrive
 - They saw JESUS' STAR



[Matthew 2.11 AMP]

And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him.

- It's believed took them 2 years to reach Jesus.... No cars / No planes...
- They decided it was worth it!

TODAY...

- It's hard to get Some to drive 10 minutes to Worship
- They don't have the RIGHT PERSPECTIVE on Christmas
- Have we really sat and thought about the real...
 - Person / Purpose for Christmas??
- Question you have to ask... *Does Christmas invoke Worship in your life??*

These wisemen sought Him

- **BECAUSE** they sought and found Jesus... **God REVELED Himself to them**



[Matthew 2.12 AMP]

And having been warned [by God] in a dream not to go back to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

- **Because Wisemen had divine Perspective on Christmas**

- They GOT Divine Guidance!
- Got Divine Warning and New Direction

- **People in life need guidance...** the Magi found IT in their worship of Jesus

- New Year is a time for Change

- So... Christmas a great time to hear from God

- **They got their divine guidance in their WORSHIP.. not gifts**

- If you need guidance... spend more time at Worship!

- Get Divine DIRECTION and WARNING

- **Wise men still seek Him, during Christmas**

God is where Jesus is being Worshipped and Glorified

These wise men went through great Inconvenience to get to where Jesus was and they Heard from Heaven because of it

#2 - Another perspective

Read again...



[Matthew 2.1-3 NKJV]

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, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

*When Herod the king heard this, he was disturbed, **and** all Jerusalem with him.*

- When Herod is disturbed ALL Jerusalem was disturbed
- When Herod is upset... Everyone else better be upset!!!

Herod perspective was he didn't want Jesus to rule.



Rejecting Jesus' Right to Rule

Jesus has always had problems with people who don't want His rule in their life

- Herod upset because another King
- We want a **Savior** we can rule over, not a **Savior** who rules over us

QUESTION:

Magi thought Jesus was worthy of worship at Christmas even if it was inconvenient

- Do you believe Jesus is Worthy of your worship?
- Does Jesus have the right to be King over your life?
- Does Jesus have final say-so in your life or do you want to keep Him at bay?

QUESTION:

Like King Herod....

Are others affected Negatively because you don't allow Jesus rule in your life?

Sometimes, other folks are in trouble because WE have trouble with Jesus being king

- When a **MAN** says, Jesus isn't being king over his life /
 - His Family may be in trouble
 - His Kids could be in trouble
 - Order and Peace in his Home in trouble
- When **SOCIETY** says they don't want Jesus and His principles ruling here.....
 - That Nation could be in trouble
- **CHURCHES** can be in trouble because that pastor won't let Jesus rule in church

- Happened in Old Testament... went on having church without allowing God to rule

Where there is no Honoring of God.... there is disorder

- Unraveling of everything simple because people don't want this Jesus ruling over their lives

That trouble also brings trouble for us

Herod said...



[Matthew 2.4 AMP]

So he called together all the chief priests and scribes of the people and [anxiously] asked them where the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed) was to be born.



[Matthew 2.8b AMP]

...when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.

Herod had right words...

- He used the WORDS of Christmas without the WORSHIP of Christmas
- He had the wrapping.... but there was a hollowness inside

That is what happens today...

- We have the language / songs of Christmas / Celebration / Programs / Activity
- It's well wrapped... **WITHOUT** the Meaning of Christmas

- **BECAUSE** people have the wrong Perspective of Christmas

- **THEY DON'T WANT JESUS TO RULE**

- They want to keep Jesus in the manger... cute and pretty
 - They don't want to deal with WHY Christmas exist
-

1. We have Magi - Worthy of Worship

2. We have Herod - Doesn't have room for another king

#3 - Final perspective

Herod calls the chief priests and scribes (religious leadership)...

.....“Where’s this king to be born?”

They tell him where....



[Matthew 2.5-6 AMP]

They replied to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what has been written by the prophet [Micah]:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not in any way least among the leaders of Judah; For from you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’

- These leaders quote scripture... they know their Bible
- While they knew the Bible, **THEY NEVER MADE THE TRIP**

Which means you can have....



Religion attached to Christmas...

Without Relationship attached to Christmas

- You can know Bible... and Not know the Lord
- Sing the songs.... and Not know the Savior

Jesus spoke of such a mindset



[John 5.39-40a NKJV]

You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me

- If the scriptures don’t lead you to Jesus... **then all you have is a well wrapped holiday**
- **This Christmas season will be full of religious activities**
 - Jesus will get a little play... Quote about Him / Talk about Him / Mention Him / through out His name
 - But we will be living in well wrapped culture who won’t COME TO HIM

- IF... what you read about Him doesn't draw you to Him... you don't experience Him

CLOSE:  [SERIES SLIDE]

As you walk through this Christmas season...

#1 **You don't want to be like Herod**.... Reject Jesus' rule

#2 **Don't want to be like Religious Leaders**....
(Just read, know and quote His word)

#3 **You want to be like Wisemen**

- Didn't have all knowledge of Jesus.... **BUT** they were looking for Him
- Bible says

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. - Jeremiah 29.13

Don't let religion keep you from the Savior

- Because you've read Bible, sing the songs... Made you think you understood the holiday

- **The meaning of Christmas is the personal encounter with Jesus Christ**

If you leave that out, then you've missed Christmas