

Magi

Introduction:

The Magi – a mysterious group of men who are traditionally seen at the nativity as three men, ornately dressed and riding on camels to offer baby Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. If we pay careful attention to these men, we see people who are first alerted to something different by looking at the stars, but eventually respond to God, revealed to them as a baby, in extravagant worship and gifts. These men have traveled anywhere from 400-700 miles to seek the One who would be born “King of the Jews.” This journey would have taken them 2-4 months’ time, and upon arrival, they were prepared to worship him.

C.J. Ryle writes, “The conduct of the wisemen is a striking example of faith. They believed in Christ when they had never seen him – but that was not all. They believed in him when the scribes and Pharisees were unbelieving – but that again was not all. They believed in him when they saw him a little infant on Mary’s knee and worshiped him as a king. This was the crowning point of their faith. They saw no miracles to convince them. They heard no teaching to persuade them. They beheld no signs of divinity and greatness to overawe them. They saw nothing but a newborn infant, helpless and weak, and needing a mother’s care like any one of us. And yet when they saw that infant, they believed that they saw the divine Savior of the world.”

May God give us the grace to respond to Jesus Christ, the newborn King, in such a way.

Read Your Bible

- Micah 5:2-4

- Matthew 2:1-12

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. What stands out to you from these two readings today?
2. As you read these verses from Micah, what will be true of this promised ruler?
3. Which aspect of the prophet Micah's prophecy brings you comfort, peace, and hope today?
4. What do we learn about the Magi who are searching for the King of the Jews?
5. What aspects of these Magi stand out to you and challenge you in your own walk with Christ?
6. Contrast King Herod's response to the birth of Christ, the newborn King (Matthew 2:15-16) with the response of the Magi.
7. How are you challenged or encouraged to worship Christ this Christmas season?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Lord Jesus, you alone are worthy of glory, honor, and praise. We see you as a man and we adore You as Lord. You were swaddled in bands of cloth and Your glory shines like the stars. The humble feeding trough was Your cradle, but the stars declare Your dominion. Help us to worship you, this Advent season, as You alone are worthy of our worship. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.