

**Series:** Advent 2025  
**Title:** "Why Worship?"  
**Text:** Matthew 2:1-12  
December 21, 2025

**Matthew 2:1–12** 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, <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> " 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.' "

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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All scripture quotes are from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.

## 1. The Magi Seek to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

**A. Motive Declared.** v. 1-2

**B. Motive Revealed.** v. 10-11

1. The one motive behind true worship is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Jeremiah 29:13** You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

**It could be called:**

(1) Your desire for God, driven by your \_\_\_\_\_ for Him.

(2) \_\_\_\_\_, driven by your \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.

(3) \_\_\_\_\_, driven by your \_\_\_\_\_ for Him.

2. True worship always ends with \_\_\_\_\_.

→ If you give for any reason short of worship, then you're giving for the \_\_\_\_\_ reason.

3. True worship is prompted only by \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. Herod Seeks to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

**A. Motive Declared.** v. 7-8

**B. Motive Revealed.** v. 12-13

1. A non-worshipper's motive is always \_\_\_\_\_.

2. True worship always \_\_\_\_\_ non-worshippers.

→ When God's at work, it leaves people with \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 15:24–25** If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

3. There are still \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ in the land.

## 3. The Religious Leaders Seek to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

→ Their motive was \_\_\_\_\_.

Which is really focused on the \_\_\_\_\_.