

Matthew 2:1-12

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem **2** and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born.

5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6 "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." **9** After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

INTRO - In 1973 Gerald Ford was in the House of Representatives serving Michigan. But, the Vice-President of the U.S. Spiro Agnew, was removed from office, and Ford was tapped to be Vice-President. Then the President of the U.S., Richard. M. Nixon resigned under controversy. Ford became president of the U.S. In a short period of time Ford found himself in a place he did not expect to be, and with a job he did not expect to have.

I. Let me tell you about who we think the Magi were.

A. We are told, **Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."**

1. East of Jerusalem is Arabia, Persia, Babylon.
2. Magi were probably court advisors. In those days they would be people who read, who watched the stars, who had religious and scientific knowledge. They might have been people like Daniel, who advised King Nebuchadnezzar.
3. Jews had been held in Babylon and Persia after being taken captive. Advisors in those countries would possibly know of the Jewish writings.
4. So, to bring a long story to conclusion, we think the Magi were court advisors from Babylon or Persia. They watched the stars, and had seen the star of the King of the Jews. These non-Jews left a job of privilege to come to Jerusalem, and Bethlehem, where they found and worshiped the Messiah.
5. They found themselves in a place they had not expected, doing a task they did not expect.

B. And worship they did.

1. Verse 2 tells us they told those in Jerusalem they were looking for the King of the Jews and had come to worship Him.
2. We are told in verse 11, **11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.**
3. They not only found the one promised, they believed this was the promised Messiah. And believing they bowed down, they gave gifts. They worshiped him in humility and sacrifice.

C. It is amazing who God calls, and what He calls people to.

1. In Luke 2 God called common laborers, shepherds working the night shift, to come and see the child.
2. In this chapter, God called those we believe were probably unbelievers, people of privilege, to worship and serve Him.

II. Today, God calls again,

A. Many members of St. John will be installed as officers and board members.

1. Many did not expect such a job.
2. They came to St. John seeking a place to worship, the peace of the Lord, the help God gives in time of trouble.
3. Almost none of them expected to have positions of responsibility, or service in the church.

- B. But, God first calls people to know His love.
 - 1. This too, is unexpected.
 - 2. Many don't know they need a Savior, that they have sin.
 - 3. Those who know their failing may not believe they deserve a Savior.
 - 4. And God sends His Son, as a baby seen by the Magi, to suffer and die for our sins, to rise and give us eternal life we don't deserve, when we believe in Jesus.
- C. Having called us to faith God calls people to serve.
 - 1. You see, when He gives us forgiveness, and love, and eternal life we don't deserve, He wants us to share this with others.
 - 2. Our Church Mission Statement reflects this fact. **'GUIDED BY GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT WE WILL SHARE OUR SAVIOR, JESUS, SO OUR MEMBERS, OUR COMMUNITY, AND ALL PEOPLE LIVE AND GROW IN BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN FAITH.**
 - 3. So, God calls people to places and jobs they don't expect.

III. God does not just call those who are leaders, He calls each of us.

- A. He wants us to receive His love, to believe that he has forgiven and saved us in Jesus.
- B. He calls us to share His love, to work to bring the good news to others.
- C. It might be a job we didn't expect, servants of the most high God, But today, just like He called the magi, God calls you too.

CONCLUSION - In 1932, in the beginning of the Great Depression, my grandmother found herself in a place with a job she didn't expect. Her husband, my grandfather, died of pneumonia, complications of mustard gas in WWI. She had twin 5 year olds. She didn't ask for the job, but she had it. With the help of her family, with the help of God, she raised the children, and today you see her grandson, her great-grandchildren. God used her to do a difficult job she didn't want. God calls you today. And he gives you His love to face the challenges of His call. Amen.

THANKS

Sharon

ILL Rhys Allen - Pneumonia

Sandy

Kristin

Lenny

Martha Rockey

SURGERY COMING

Deo

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CANCER

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Curt Mennard

Pastor Ernie Savage

George Wollenburg

Military

Justin Gallegos

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