

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ What was the biggest insight for you in today's message?" Why?
- ❖ What do you look forward to most about Christmas? Why?
- ❖ How do you typically do prepare for Christmas? What are some ways you can keep Jesus the focus of your Christmas preparations this year?
- ❖ Is it difficult sometimes for you to keep Jesus in the "Drivers Seat" of your life? Why or why not? What does it mean that Jesus is our King? In what ways can you affirm his lordship over your life this Christmas season?
- ❖ Is it easy for you to get indifferent to what Christmas really means? Why or why not? How do you maintain a sense of excitement over what he has done in your life or in the lives of others?
- ❖ While some Christians believe God is willing to answer prayer, they inwardly question God's ability to do so. What would cause Christians to question God's ability?
- ❖ What can your small group do together this season as a corporate act of worship this Christmas? Discuss.



"Do You Hear What I Hear"

Luke 2:1,3-7 (NIV) - ¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ³ And everyone went to his own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Matthew 2:1-5, 7-12, 16-18 (NIV) - 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 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. ¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

1. The Inn Keeper - A Material Preoccupation.

Luke 2:6 (NIV) - *She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

Ecclesiastes 6:7 (NKJV) - *7 All the labor of man is for his mouth, And yet the soul is not satisfied.*

Revelation 3:20 (CEV) - *20 Listen! I am standing and knocking at your door. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and we will eat together.*

2. King Herod - A Personal Intimidation.

Matthew 2:3 (NIV) *3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed...*

Ephesians 1:9-10 (NLT) - *9 God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure. 10 And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.*

Psalms 10:4 (TEV) - *4 The wicked do not care about the Lord; in their pride they think that God doesn't matter.*

Matthew 11:28 (NLT) - *28 Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.*

John 10:10 (CEV) - *10 I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest.*

3. Religious Leaders - An Apathetic Disposition.

Matthew 2:4 (NIV) *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 7*

Proverbs 1:32 (TEV) - *Stupid people are destroyed by their own lack of concern.*

4. Magi - A Super Natural Invitation!

Matthew 2:1-5, 7-12, 16-18 (NIV) *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.*

Extra Message Notes

Bible Versions used: KJV-King James; NKJV-New King James; NIV-New International; NCV-New Century; TLB-Living Bible; NLT-New Living Translation; Msg-The Message; GW-God's Word; TEV-Today's English; CEV-Contemporary English; NAS - New American Standard; NJB-New Jerusalem Bible; Phi-Phillips Translation; Amp-Amplified Bible; NRSV-New Revised Standard; BBE-Basic Bible English

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