

Sermon Reflections

War on Christmas (Part 1) (Matthew 2:1-12)

Summary: Don't withstand Him, but Worship Him – the Rightful King Jesus

1. Are you ready to receive your rightful King? (vv. 1-2)

Matthew records that wise men from the east came to Jerusalem after Jesus' birth during the reign of Herod – historical events. These men were expecting a coming king, possibly based on prophecy passed down over centuries from Daniel during the Babylonian exile. But at the core we see that God worked in their hearts to bring forth belief that motivated them to action – to seek the new king that would rule over the earth.

- How does your belief in Jesus, the risen Christ, impact your normal thoughts and affections? Can you identify any affections that are at war against Christ?
- Is there any bitterness or unforgiveness that occupies your thoughts? How could an increased focus on Jesus alter those thoughts? What action will you take to strengthen your affection for Jesus?

2. Are you threatened by your rightful King? (vv. 3-8)

- Matthew contrasts the receptivity of the wise men with that of Herod. Herod did not receive the news of God's provision (Jesus) as a gift for his good but rather as an obstacle to be eliminated. Can you think of areas in your life where you view a situation or an authority figure as an obstacle to be avoided or eliminated?
- What do you complain about? What does that reflect about your view of God and His gifts?

3. Will you worship your rightful King? (vv. 9-12)

God extended His grace to the wise men so they were aware of a new king and were motivated to seek Him. So too has God extended His grace to you, but now through the fuller revelation of His Word. However, even with the increased revelation, there is still a battle in choosing to worship Jesus today.

- Read Colossians 1:11-14. In what ways does this passage motivate you to worship? In what ways does this passage grow thankfulness for God's work? Do you rejoice in the love that God has extended to you through the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son in your place?
- Wise men came seeking Jesus at His birth and fell in worship when they saw Him. Matthew intends for us to worship this child, the newborn King.
- Will you ask God to reveal how you can grow in your worship of Him this year? What area of your life do you need to submit to Him?