

## Wise Worship Part 1

### Developing a Culture of Worship

- ❖ Whatever you place most before you is what eventually takes the deepest roots in you – Deut. 6:5-10
- ❖ We must determine that we won't settle for anything less than genuine worship – 1 Kings 18:21; Joshua 24:15; Mat. 4:10

### Wisdom is not optional but required

- ❖ If we are going to develop a culture of worship, it must include the areas addressed by this passage: Colossians 3:15-16
  - The peace (eirēnē: peace, prosperity, quietness, rest) of God must rule (brabeúō: arbitrate, govern) our hearts – John 14:27; Phil. 4:7
    - We are called to it in one body – 1 Cor. 7:15; Eph. 4:4
  - We are called to be thankful – 1 Thes. 5:18
- ❖ We must allow the Word to not visit but dwell (enoikeō: to inhabit, influence for good) in us
  - In our hearts and minds – Phil. 2:5
  - The work of the Word of God in obtaining wisdom – Psalms 119:98; Psalm 19:7; 2 Tim. 3:15; Jeremiah 8:9
- ❖ Notice the correlation between wisdom, culture and worship
  - Vs. 16: Teaching and admonishing one another in:
    - Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs – Eph. 5:19; Psalm 137:1-5
    - Singing with grace in our hearts to the Lord – 1 Cor. 14:15; Col. 4:6
    - Let's compare Eph. 5:19 to Col. 3:16 – filled with the Spirit and filled with the Word
  - **Vs. 17: do all in the name of the Lord Jesus – 1 Cor. 10:31**
    - If I can't do it in His Name, am I really worshipping Him in it? John 4:22

### Let's Look at the Magi Now

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## **Wise Worship Part 2 – When You Know**

### **The Power of Knowledge, Understanding and Awareness**

- ❖ It positions us to make wiser decisions – Pro. 18:15; Pro. 24:5
- ❖ Worship takes place when we come to an awareness of who God is and have both opportunity and desire
  - Awareness – Joh 4:22
  - Opportunity – Joh 4:22
  - Desire – Joh 4:24, Psalm 42:2; John 7:37

### **Worship exposes your motive and the depth of your devotion to God**

- ❖ Mat. 13:24-20: Wheat and tares

### **Worship will change the direction of your life**

- ❖ Acts 13:2-3: Barnabus & Saul set apart by Holy Ghost after worship
- ❖ Acts 16:25-26: Paul & Silas freed from prison

### **IN THE DAYS OF HEROD THE KING (Vs. 1)**

- ❖ HEROD
  - An Edomite and not a Jew (descendant of Esau, father of Arabs)
  - Came to power not by birthright, but by political and financial means
    - Carried out many building projects and won favor of Jews and Romans
  - Was a cruel, paranoid man
    - Executed his wife and three eldest sons for fear of a rival...
    - Commanded that several leaders in city be killed when he died b/c he wanted people to mourn at his death...

### **THERE CAME WISE MEN**

- ❖ Magi – scientists – they were astronomers from Persia (Babylon, modern Iraq believed to be founded by Daniel when official of Persian govt. some 500 years prior)
  - Not from Israel, but Persia – more than just Jews awaiting birth of Christ...
- ❖ **The Question: Where is he that is BORN King of the Jews?** Mat. 1:2
  - They wanted to worship the rightful King, the prophesied King they had been awaiting.
    - Are we worshipping the Rightful King? 1 Cor. 8:6; Isa. 9:6
  - From their studies, they knew the time was near – Dan. 9:25-27
- ❖ They came from far looking for the Savior...
  - Saw His star from the East and in the West...
- ❖ They came to worship (proskuneō: to reverence, kneel or prostrate in homage; show respect) Christ – Why do we come? Psa. 95:6-7

## THE REACTION OF JERUSALEM

- ❖ Herod and all people were troubled
  - Herod: was an Edomite and not a Jew (Gen. 25:19-34;
  - People: maybe b/c of Herod's possible reaction...
- ❖ Gathered religious leaders and wanted to know where Christ to be born
  - Micah 5:2 (vs. 6) – Gen 49:10; Rev. 2:27
  - ➔ **THEY ALL KNEW WHERE BUT NONE TOOK THE SHORT 4 MILE TRIP TO SEE JESUS...**
    - Knew the Word but didn't want to meet The Word... Mat. 15:8

## HEROD'S QUESTIONING OF THE WISE MEN

- ❖ What time did the star appear? Num 24:17
  - As a result of their answer, he has all children 2 and under killed
- ➔ **THE ENEMY WANTS TO KILL WHAT GOD DESIRES TO BIRTH BECAUSE HE KNOWS IT WILL GLORIFY GOD...**

## SIGNS OF A PHONY WORSHIPPER

- ❖ Wants someone else to find Jesus for Him instead of looking for himself
- ❖ Too consumed with self-glorification to seek God for right reasons...

## SIGNS OF A TRUE WORSHIPPER

- ❖ **Same light that guided them thus far guided them all the way to Jesus**
  - Jesus uses what they are familiar with – star
  - Speaks of their diligence – Heb. 11:6
- ❖ **Their response to God's light – the star**
  - They rejoiced with exceeding great joy (vs. 10)
  - They weren't concerned about the building, but the light over it...
- ❖ **They come in the house**
  - They had come so far and now it was time to come in...
  - ➔ **YOU'VE COME THROUGH SO MUCH AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO COME IN...**
- ❖ **Not only did they come in, but they came in with the proper perspective – fell down and worshipped him...**
  - Note that they bow and worship him not her
  - Note they bow and worship and child – faith
    - God reveals to them who Jesus is
- ❖ **They opened their treasures – they came with something to give...**
  - Gifts are customary and prophetic – Gen. 32:14; Gen. 43:11; 1Sam. 10:27; 1Kings 10:2; Psa. 72:10-15
  - Their gifts were symbolic of why they worshipped Him...

- (1) Gold – symbolic of His Kingship and Authority
- (2) Frankincense – symbolic of His Priesthood
  - a. Burned as a sweet-smelling incense to God
  - b. Come from the *Oswellia* tree's bleeding sap when scraped and cut. The resin is called the tree's tears. Tree can grow in unforgiving places and the best tears come from trees that have had to endure the harshest environments, making the sweetest aroma. (Wikipedia)