

121618 Growth Group Study

Where Is He Who Has Been Born King of the Jews?

Matthew 2:1-12



Giotto, Adoration of the Magi
Scrovegni Chapel (Padua, c. 1305)

1. Discussion around most recent sermon

- a. **Date:** 12/16/18
- b. **Series:** Advent: Joy
- c. **Title:** Where Is He Who Has Been Born King of the Jews?
- d. **Text:** Matthew 2:1-12
- e. **Preacher:** Brian Morgan
- f. **Sermon Text**

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

6 "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."

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 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." 9 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. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 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. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

2. Discussion Questions

a. Preparation questions

1. As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
2. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
3. What questions did you come away with from the sermon?

b. Sermon questions (Pick 3)

1. What has struck you most during Advent this year? Why? How does that cause you to live this season?
2. Brian essentially did character studies in his sermon, so the next three questions emerge out of his character studies.
 - i. What did you learn from Herod? How will that influence how you live your life this Christmas season?
 - ii. What did you learn from the Religious Authorities? How will that influence how you live your life this Christmas season?
 - iii. What did you learn from the Magi? How will that influence how you live your life this Christmas season?
3. The Magi (gentiles) are drawn to Jesus. As Brian said, no person is too alien to come to Christ. In other words, there is always hope for every single person.
 - i. What does that tell you about the character of God?
 - ii. How does that truth affect how you live your life?
4. The Magi had only one thing to go on – a star. They “traveled 1000 miles of humility.” It was a great risk for them. Where can you risk like them this season?
5. Our theme this morning is joy. Matthew is very clear that the Magi were full of joy (2:10). Are you joyful this season like the Magi were? Why or why not? If not, what do you think would help you find joy?

c. For Further Reflection

1. One of the gifts of PBCC is a multicultural community. In other words, our church is a microcosm of the “world faith” that is Christianity. Reflect on how this is a positive and/or a negative.
2. Do you think you have investigated Christianity thoroughly? Why or why not?