

**Sermon Notes – December 7, 2014**  
**“Overjoyed”**  
**Matthew 2:1-12**  
**Pastor Bill Hoffman**

What is it about Jesus that causes the Magi to make a long journey to worship him and Herod to try to have him killed? (see verses 2, 4, & 6)

The Magi illustrate something of what it is to discover and follow God’s will:

- Verse 2: Although they didn’t have the privilege of being among God’s covenant people, they followed the “light” they had been given.
- Verse 4-6: They get more specific insight from Scripture and follow it.
- Verse 9: God gives them more light, which they unreservedly follow.

Herod is hostile toward Jesus.

The religious leaders are indifferent.

The Magi are “overjoyed” to find him.

- How do you account for their joy?

While many believe that joy is something that is supposed to characterize their experience of Christmas, in practice joy can be elusive.

What might we learn from the Magi that could magnify our experience of joy this Christmas?