

Sermon Notes - January 8, 2017

“Seek, Find, Worship”

Matthew 2:1-12

Pastor Bill Hoffman

Herod's hostility. Herod knew the Magi believed that Israel's Messiah had come (verse 4), but he did not consider this good news (verses 3, 16-18).

- What about Jesus was threatening to Herod? In what sense might Jesus be considered a threat to people – like ourselves – today?

Religious leaders' indifference. The religious leaders knew about the Messiah, but didn't care to investigate for themselves if he had actually come.

- How can someone bridge the gap between knowing *about* Jesus and allowing him to make a practical difference in their life?

The Magi's joy in finding the “king of the Jews.” These men illustrate something of how to find and follow God's will:

- Verse 2. Though they are Gentiles, and thus not of God's covenant people, they followed what “light” they had been given.
- Verses 4-6. They get more specific direction from the Scriptures.
- Verse 9. God gives them more light, which they obediently follow.

Apply the Magi's example as a framework for discovering and doing God's will in your own life in 2017.