

Seeking & Expecting | Matthew 2

I. Intro

A. Nothing changes your opinion like expectations

1. *Random band is great, hyped movie stinks*

a) *Those coming to Jesus w/right expectation receive*

II. Two Responses To Jesus

A. Prepared For & Seeking Jesus

1. *(v.1-2: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.")*

a) Very little about birth, more interested in reception

(1) *Magi - (broad) well-read astrologers, studies stars*

(2) Their goal - worship Jesus! Good goal

(a) *How did they get there? They were prepared.*

(3) *Matthew 3:3 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'*

B. Surprised At His Arrival

1. *(v. 3-4: When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.)*

a) *Troubled - (Matt. 14:26 walk on water) could cost him*

b) *Questioning - wasn't aware of Jesus' coming*

(1) *Two work together. Know more = trust more*

(a) *Good study prepares for good encounter w/God*

C. We Must Seek Him

1. (v.5-8: *In Bethlehem in Judea,*” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: **6** “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’ **7** Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”)

a) How did they know? Quoted scripture

(1) *Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.*

(2) Is Matthew misquoting? *Finding new significance*

(a) Micah - emphasis is Bethlehem's insignificance

(b) Matt - emphasis is they are now significant

b) Herod - doesn't want personal experience

(1) *Revere steps of faith in others, scared for ourselves*

(2) *Psalm 34:8 "Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."*

(a) We must seek for ourselves, Herod refuses

III. **God's Guidance of the Faithful**

A. Led Right To Jesus

1. (v. 9-11: *After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where*

the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.)

- a) Scene - Jesus likely between 6 and 18 months
 - (1) Three gifts used to infer 3 wise men, not necessary
 - (2) Gold - royalty, frankincense - divinity, myrrh - burial
 - (a) Main point - wanted to worship extravagantly
- b) How they got there? Star “went ahead of them”
 - (1) Boss wants to give work, parents want chore help
 - (a) When we ask to find God, God loves to guide us!
 - i) Luke 8:10 “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you”

B. Led Forward By God

- 1. (v. 12-15: And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. **13** When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” **14** So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, **15** where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”)
 - a) Despite danger, God specifically leads
 - (1) Wise men - may have returned to Herod

(2) *Joseph - had no moving plans*

(a) *When God needs to move us, He is able to*

(3) *Often look for God's subtle hints, He speaks clearly*

IV. God's Closeness To Our Suffering

A. *(v. 16-18: When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. **17** Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: **18** "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.")*

1. *Horrific tragedy - est. ~20 children fit this description*

a) *Quotes Jeremiah 31:15 - spoke of exile & return*

(1) *Hints that God's final settling hadn't happened yet*

B. *(v. 19-23: After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt **20** and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." **21** So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. **22** But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, **23** and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.)*

1. *Why is all this here? Because Jesus was in it w/us.*

a) “This is how Israel’s redeemer was to appear; this is how God would set about liberating his people, and bringing justice to the whole world. No point in arriving in comfort, when the whole world is in misery; no point having an easy life, when the world suffers violence and injustice! If he is to be Emmanuel, God-with-us, he must be with us where the pain is. That’s what this chapter is about.”

(1) *Psalm 34:18 "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."*

(a) Pain of life confuses, but God meets us there

V. Conclusion

A. Whatever makes it hard to approach God, Jesus gets

1. *Big questions, secret sins, emotional scars, etc.*

a) Those things cloud, but Jesus reaches through

2. Our call - Train our heart towards surrender

a) Point isn't just to remember, but to act

(1) Jesus gave all for us, what will we give for Him?

B. Encouragement - Jesus initiated the Kingdom of Grace

1. *John 1:12-13 "To all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."*

a) Jesus was born a man that we might be born again.

(1) Let's look to him because he's worth celebrating