

WHY SUCH AN UPROAR?

Matthew 2:1-12

November 27, 2022

(1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT)

1. What Herod heard (vv. 1b-2 – Some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”)

📖 Who were these “wise men?”

Literally, “Magi”

📖 Why did they come to Jerusalem?

v. 2 – They saw his star as it rose, and [came] to worship him.

The point we need to see here is that they travelled a GREAT distance at a substantial cost to pursue this revelation...

Application: What price are willing to pay in order to find Christ? How far are WE willing to go? How willing are we to ACT on the truth God gives us?

📖 What Did Herod Hear?

Bottom line: When anyone understands who this Jesus is, and the fact that He is, indeed Lord...

2. What “everyone in Jerusalem” heard (vv. 1b-2 – Some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”)

They don’t ask, “**Has there been a newborn king of the Jews?**” (they have no doubt of that); but, **Where is he?**

📖 The Problem of Distractions

Wouldn’t everyone be rejoicing and worshipping him? Yet no one seems to know anything about it! And it doesn’t appear that anyone pursued it in any way...

Paul, in 1 Corinthians 7, speaks of the tension we often face between family obligations and serving God.

We are told to seek God & His Kingdom 1st & foremost (Matthew 6:33)

📖 The Ability to Direct Others

How aware ARE we of the true reason for the season? Are we, indeed “celebrants?” Do we know HOW to bring others to Him—even if they were to ask?...

1 Peter 3:15 ^(NIV) – Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

“Many that we think should direct us to Christ are themselves strangers to him.” ^{Matthew Henry}

While the Magi sought to worship this newborn king... When King Herod heard this he was **disturbed**, and all Jerusalem with him.

What about you? This year Christmas Day is on a Sunday. Does that bother you? Is it TRULY about Christ? Or is He really secondary, a distraction, an inconvenience...?

3. Why They Were “Deeply Disturbed”

Greek: *tarasso* – To cause one inward commotion, take away his calmness of mind. To disquiet. To stir up. To trouble. To strike one’s spirit with fear and dread. ^{Strong’s}

Matthew 14:26; Mark 6:50; Luke 1:12; Luke 24:38

We have a great fear of the unknown. We fear death because we love this world too much to let it go.

Sometimes we are more in love with the system than we are with the Person of Christ.

Have we, indeed, counted the cost... and committed ourselves to following, NO MATTER WHAT?!?

Perhaps it was **pride**. After all these Magi were Gentiles!

We tend to have a really hard time receiving truth from someone we feel superior to, like being taught by our children.

A real faith can make a phony faith or a shallow faith very uncomfortable. ^{Source Unknown}

True faith calls me to live for God and Him alone, but I must confess that I find myself, at times, fighting with God, or at least wrestling with Him as I want to control my own life, to do what **I** want to do.

But whatever the reason, they responded to this wondrous news as little more than a blip on the radar.

This is what we might call **convenience** faith, faith that is well and good as long as it is convenient, as long as it doesn’t interfere with things that we would **rather** do.

“A man may be persuaded of many truths, and yet may hate them, because they interfere with his ambition, or sinful indulgences. Such a belief will make him uneasy, and the more resolved to oppose the truth and the cause of God.” ^{Matthew Henry}

The slavery of sin is foolishly preferred by many to the glorious liberty of the children of God. ^{Matthew Henry}

There is a sense in which this SHOULD deeply disturb us... at least in the sense that it changes the way things are with us.

QUESTION: Does the fact that Jesus was born, that He lived, died and rose again make any REAL difference in your life?

A Truth to Remember: Jesus is Lord. Either we truly acknowledge that fact and wrestle with the implications of that on a day-to-day basis, with a commitment to obey Him, or we do not really understand what this season is all about.

A Challenge to Consider: How can I seek Him more actively this Advent season? How can I surrender more fully and serve Him more actively?

One thing I heard this morning was...