

Sunday, 12-31-2023

2023-2024 Winter Quarter

Unit I: Profiles in Faith

Lesson 5: The Faith of the Wise Men

Bible Background: Matthew 2:1-12

Printed Text: Matthew 2:1-12 KJV/NIV

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 49:1-6

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**Prayer:** *Dear God, we are grateful to You for Your guiding hand in all our affairs. Help us to lean and depend on You in complete confidence that You are in control of this world and that one day it will ultimately conform to Your will. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen*

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**Exposition and Application of the Scripture: – The Faith of the Wise Men – Matthew 2:1-12**

**A. The Child Who Was Born a King (vv. 1-2) – p. 166**

- Why was the place of Jesus' birth significant? – **Numbers 24:17; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Revelation 22:16**
- (v. 2) Does God speak to me in a way I recognize?
- What makes me come to worship Jesus?
- How can the Father use His light in me for others to know Him? – **Tue: “Mary’s Exultant Faith” – Luke 1:46-55**
- Do Christians reverence God more than church folks?

**B. An Illegitimate King Fearful of the Savior (vv. 3-8) – pp. 166-167**

- Do I get excited, discouraged, or convicted when I learn something new about Jesus? – **Fri: God’s Salvation for All the Earth” – Isaiah 49:1-6 (Devotional Reading)**
- (v. 4) Do I seek out the help of others when I don’t understand scripture? – **Wed: “Reject Abhorrent Imitations of Faith” – Deuteronomy 18:9-14**
- (vv. 5-6) Do I know enough scripture(s) to help answer someone’s question(s) about Jesus? – **Micah 5:2; John 3:16-17, 7:42**
- (v. 8) Do I have the spirit of discernment to know when someone is lying?

**C. Wise Men Guided by a Shining Star (vv. 9-11) – pp. 167-168**

- (v. 9) Will I follow God’s light wherever it may lead? – **Thu: “Make Disciples in Faith” – Matthew 28:16-20**
- (v. 10) What’s my reaction when I see His light?
- Is my worship half-hazard or reverential? – **Genesis 4:3-7**
- (v. 11) What did the gifts of the Magi represent? – **Psalms 45:8; 72:10-15; Sat: “Arise, Shine; Your Light Has Come” – Isaiah 60:1-6**
- What does my gift(s) to the Lord represent? – **Romans 12:1-3; 14:17-19**

**D. A Dream and a Different Direction (v. 12) – p. 168**

- Am I in tune with God enough to follow His direction?
- How has He led me out of troublesome situations?
- Why is obedience better than sacrifice? – **1 Samuel 15:18-23; Ecclesiastes 5:1-7; Matthew 9:9-13**