

## WHAT DOES IT ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE TO GET CHRISTMAS RIGHT?

### PRECEPT

#### Matthew 2:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, <sup>2</sup> “Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We saw His star as it rose, and we have come to worship Him.” <sup>3</sup> King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?” <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote: <sup>6</sup> ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’” <sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared...

### PROMISE

Not through decorations or traditions—but through the story of a group of unlikely people. Matthew calls them the Magi—wise men who didn’t grow up with the scriptures, didn’t live near Jerusalem, and weren’t part of the religious system. Yet somehow, they saw something others missed, and their story shows us what it really looks like to get Christmas right. God reveals Jesus to those who are willing to seek. The Magi weren’t Jews, priests, or kings—but God still drew them to Jesus. You don’t have to know everything about God to seek Him. You don’t have to be perfect to be led by Him. You just have to be willing. Christmas is not about how much we know—it’s about who we are seeking, and when we seek Him, God promises to reveal Himself.

Not everyone responds the same way to Jesus. Jesus still exposes hearts. The same Christ brings fear to some, indifference to others, and joy to seekers. You can have the right information and still have the wrong response. You can be close to spiritual things and still miss the King. You can hear the story of Jesus every Christmas and never truly seek Him. Christmas doesn’t just tell us that Jesus has come—it reveals how we respond to Him. Seeking Jesus requires movement. Faith that seeks Jesus will always move towards Him. Obedience often begins before everything is clear; the next step matters more than having all the answers. Christmas reminds us that faith doesn’t just believe—it responds.

True joy is found when we encounter Christ. Joy doesn’t come from Christmas events—it comes from Christ. Joy is not the absence of problems; it’s the presence of Jesus. When Jesus becomes the centre, joy naturally follows. Christmas joy is not manufactured—it is encountered.

The right response to Jesus is worship and surrender. When the Magi finally saw Jesus, they didn’t rush past Him; they didn’t just admire Him; They bowed. Worship is more than singing—it’s surrender. It’s placing Jesus at the centre of our lives, not just our celebrations. Getting Christmas right doesn’t end at the manger. It means leaving the encounter changed—with new priorities, new direction, and renewed devotion. Jesus is the reason for the season. And we get Christmas right when we treat Jesus right. He is God who became one of us, so that we could know Him, experience true joy, and discover the real meaning of Christmas.

### PRACTICE

- 1. Reflect.** What does it mean that God used outsiders (Magi) to reveal Jesus’ birth, and how might He be using unexpected people or ways to reveal Himself?
- 2. Understanding Christmas.** What/who are you seeking right now? And how can we pray/encourage you regarding this?

### PRAYER

#### I. Peace

- Pray for God’s peace to fill our hearts, our homes, our communities, and our world.

#### II. Community

- Pray for our community to know Christ fully and deeply and study His Word daily.

#### III. Leaders

- May God grant them wisdom, strength, and discernment as they guide His people.

#### IV. Members

- Pray for the spiritual maturity and the growth of our attendees.

#### V. Disciples

- Let us pray for more disciples and disciplers to teach others to obey God’s commands.

#### VI. Pastors

- May God’s favour rest upon them and may He establish the work of their hands always.

#### VII. Marriages

- May God guide them and strengthen their commitment to one another.