**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr, January 29, 2023**

**Wise Men & Women Still Seek Him**

Matthew 2:1-12

**Key Truth:** How we respond to the information we have about Jesus Christ determines what impact our relationship with Him will have on our lives.

**Wicked Men, Wise Men and Us:**

1. Herod responded with hostility toward Jesus Christ.

 A. Herod feared that Jesus Christ would dethrone him as

 King.

2. The Religious/Political Leaders responded with indifference

 toward Jesus Christ.

 A. They were blinded to God’s plan of redemption because of

 their own lust for power.

3. The Magi responded in worship to Jesus Christ.

 A. They understood that this child was like no other and that

 Jesus Christ was worthy of their praise and worship.

**Question:** What is your response to the gospel of Jesus Christ?

**The Biblical Response**: Faith, adoration, and worship is the right response. Philippians 2:9-11

**What We Learn:**

1. God’s plan of salvation cannot be foiled, no matter how

 hard the enemy schemes.

2. Blindness to God’s plan can cause us to attempt to hinder

 God’s work.

3. God’s Kingdom Agenda is the only kingdom that will last.

4. God gives us all a chance to bow the knee to King Jesus.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Remember that God loved you so much, that He moved heaven and earth to bring salvation to you. Know that the plans of the enemy cannot derail the plans of God.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

How are the wise men another example of God revealing His truth to unlikely people?

In drawing the wise men to Christ, what did God reveal about His plan for the Gentiles (non-Jews)?

Read Matthew 2:3-8,16: Why did Herod run to the chief priests and scribes for answers? When you face challenging situations, do you seek counsel from people who will speak truth or people who will confirm what you want to hear? Explain.

The more we love controlling our own lives, the harder it is when we lose control. What is a natural first reaction when your personal “empire” feels threatened?

Read Matthew 2:9-12: Both Herod and the wise men had essentially the same facts about the star and the Messiah. Why is intellectual information not enough to cause us to embrace Christ? What else is needed?

How does a relationship with God go deeper than mere knowledge about Him?

For the wise men, God used a star to point them to the Messiah. What kinds of events does God use to point others to His Son today?

Jesus’ birth shattered religious and cultural barriers. How does He still do this today?