

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵"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 be the shepherd of my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On 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 and of incense and of myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

I. The Facts of Light

1. _____
 - God came in the night because that is when light is best _____.
2. _____
 - Light always penetrates _____.

Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Psalms 27:1

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- In Christ we never find ourselves in a situation without _____.
3. _____
 - Christ's light is personal, _____, and _____.

II. Responses to the Light

1. _____
 - Herod was threatened by a _____ of Christ.
 - People don't reject Jesus for lack of _____ but for reasons of _____.

2. _____

- Indifference is ultimately a life lived unaffected by the _____.

2 Corinthians 3:6

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

- Indifference to Jesus has been the _____ of the _____ throughout the ages.
- Indifference indicates a problem with _____.
- Indifference is ultimately delayed _____.

Philippians 2:10

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

3. _____

- The first Christ-followers came from the _____ elite.
- God gives direction to true _____.