

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem<sup>2</sup> 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."

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When 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. <sup>5</sup>"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup>"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."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He 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."

<sup>9</sup>After 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On 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. <sup>12</sup>And 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 \_\_\_\_\_.