

Dreaming of a WISE Christmas!
Matthew 2:1-15

Intro

Christmas has come and gone and we have opened the presents. We also have most likely eaten too much and exercised too little.

Christmas has also come and gone in our Scripture passage this morning.

Matthew 2:11-15

We don't know much about the wise men or magi.

How do we know that these magi from the east were actually wise men?

For me, they were wise because they heeded the _____ of _____.

"...for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod." (Matt. 2:12)

Let's use the acrostic **W-I-S-E** to learn how these men were wise and how we may be as well.

W – _____ are meant to change the direction of our lives. V12

Other _____:

Now that the Christmas busyness is over, take some time to reflect on events and people that you came into contact with these past 4 or 5 weeks.

Was there a common theme, a common message?

Did you encounter someone unexpected in your life over the past month or so?

Was there some uncommon occurrence that stands out to you?

I – call us to an _____ with God's will or to develop a _____
_____. (V15)

I John 2:15-17

Psalm 119:37

"I'd like to change. I know that what I say is important to me I don't make time for and the things I don't think are important I spend all my time on.

I'm so confused and I'd like to change but I don't have the energy or the power or the strength or the wisdom to do it."

You're right. That's why you need God in your life.

S- they were wise in _____ the King of the Jews. (V1-2)

Worship here means "reverence paid to a divine being"

E – Evil, God's warnings are to _____ us from _____ (V13)

Herod reminds us of the description of Satan in John 10:10 (NKJV)

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

Yet this newborn baby came to destroy the work of the destroyer! (I John 3:8, NLT)

But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.

Conclusion

When we have an encounter with the Lord, we should be changed.

God warns us in order to bring about change in the direction of our lives and to protect us from the things that would harm us.

-but now comes a time of reflection and refocus....

Be WISE. Seek the Lord. Take time to reflect on where the Lord is trying to move you in this coming Year.

What is he saying to you about Worship, discipleship, service?