

A Cast of Misfits



Sermon Outline
December 22, 2024
Pastor Bryan Myers

The Wise Men – Cultural Outsiders.

Matthew 2:1-12

*** Why does it often seem like the _____
people are the ones who don't believe in God?**

** People operate in the world based on worldviews, and worldviews condition what they're willing to accept, what they're willing to believe, what they're willing to affirm.*

- Dr. Michael Kruger

The Wise Men's Misfit Story:

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 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah 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 shepherd my people Israel." 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 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, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

** The magi are the most mysterious of the Christmas story characters. We're not exactly sure who they were, where they came from or how they knew to follow the star to Jesus.*

*** What qualifies the wise men as misfits?**

1. They were cultural and religious _____.

Ephesians 2:12-13 - Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

*** Jesus didn't just come to save a particular nation. He came to save _____.**

Luke 2:30-32 - For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

** The church is one of the few organizations that exist primarily for those who are _____ a part of it.*

2. They didn't let _____ dissuade their journey to Jesus.

** It may have been a _____ mile journey over 4 to 5 months*

Acts 17:27 - God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from any one of us.

3. When what they found looked different than what they likely expected, their response was the same – they _____.

Vs. 11 - 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, frankincense and myrrh.

*** Why were the wise men able to find Jesus? Because they were open to the _____ in their lives.**