

CHOSEN TO FOLLOW

Matthew 2:1-12
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December 12, 2021

INTRO:

The different moods of Christmas

A. RESPONSE 1: ANXIETY

1. Herod's response on Jesus' birth (v. 3a)
2. Hidden emotions of Christmas
(Matthew 2:3; Mark 6:50; John 5:7; 14:27)

B. RESPONSE 2: APATHY

1. The expectation of the Messiah's birth
(Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 11:1; Micah 5:2; Jeremiah 23:5-6)
2. The reality of the Messiah's birth (v. 3b)

C. RESPONSE 3: ADORATION

1. They were seekers (v. 2, 9)
2. They were joyful (v. 10)
3. They were worshippers (v. 11a)
4. They were generous (v. 11b)

CONCLUSION

As we celebrate Christmas, let us... Seek Christ. Be joyful despite our circumstances. Worship with fellow Christians. Be generous and compassionate.

TABLE TALK QUESTIONS

1. In recent research by BBC (British Broadcasting Company), Christmas emotions include excitement and happiness, but it also includes anger, scared, bored, sad, frustration, depression and ambivalence. Which of these can you relate to during the holidays?
2. Read Matthew 2:1-3. In verse 3, the passage says, *"When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him."* The word for 'disturbed' here in the Greek means to be troubled, anxious, angry and agitated. What caused Herod to respond to the news of the Savior's birth? What about the residents of Jerusalem?
3. How can we miss the real meaning of Christmas just like the Herod and the residents of Jerusalem?
4. Read Matthew 2:9-12. Who are the wisemen and what was the reason why they were there?
5. There were four major responses that the wise men demonstrated from the passage we just read. How does each response contribute to the buildup of seeing the Savior?
6. As you close the discussion, think of the practical ways you can apply in searching for Christ, being joyful despite your circumstance, worshipful and generous during this Christmas season?