

NWC Questions

for Personal Study and Small Groups 12/16/12

A Tale of 2 Kings Matthew 2

Serve SGs: Where are you faithfully serving? Study SGs: Where are you faithfully studying?

Focus: *to present Jesus as Christ and King in fulfillment of the OT and to call us to worship Him (like the magi) and not be a rival (like Herod)*

Read the entire passage. What do the Magi teach us in this passage? what do you know about who they were? why is it significant that God would bring them to worship the Christ?

List all the insights you can about Herod in this passage. How is he the anti-example, one whose example is NOT to be followed? In what ways can we fuel our "inner Herod" that positions us as rivals to Christ?

Discuss the fulfilled prophecies in the passage. Read each passage and the corresponding OT reference (use your cross-references in your Bibles). What do these passages reveal to us about who Christ is to be? (here is are 2 links that may be useful in your preparation for this: <http://bible.org/seriespage/visit-wise-men-matthew-21-12> and <http://bible.org/seriespage/slaughter-innocents-matthew-213-23>)

Discuss what it means for you to worship Christ with Joy like the magi and NOT set yourself up as a rival, like Herod. What is your step of Joseph-like obedience in light of these thoughts?

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Matthew 1.18-25

Serve SGs: Where are you faithfully serving? Study SGs: Where are you faithfully studying?

Read Matthew 1:18-25.

What aspect of the birth of Christ is most difficult for you to comprehend (remember Larry's coffee shop conversation illustration)?

Larry mentioned 3 actors in our passage...who were they? Spend some time discussing their various roles in the birth of Christ.

Read the Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)...We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. What aspects of this Creed stand out to you?

Jesus name indicates that "God saves." Read verse 21 and share what this means for your life. Is the fact that Jesus is the God who saves your sole hope when you stand before the Father in Heaven? What other things are you tempted to add to the work of Christ? Read Colossians 1:19-20.

Jesus is also referred to as Immanuel (God with us) in verse 23. What does it mean that Jesus is not just God (which is a BIG deal), but that He is with us? Read Hebrews 4:14-16.

What about Joseph's character stand out to you from this passage?

In what ways does God speak to you today? Read Deut. 30:11-14. What do you do with what God communicates to you? Read Jas. 1:22-25; 4:17. What is the one thing God wants you to do that you are not doing? What does it look like for you to promptly obey? Be specific.