

## **The Character of Christmas**

### **Part One - The Wise Men**

#### **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 2 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.” 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 Christ 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 be the shepherd of 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 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.” 9 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. 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 and of incense and of myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

#### **Six Character Traits of the Wise**

##### **1. They were seekers.**

##### **Vs. 2**

“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.”

##### **Matthew 7:7**

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

## **2. They were worshipers.**

### **Vs. 11**

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

### **Psalms 111:10**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

### **Psalms 14:1**

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

## **3. They were relational.**

### **Vs. 2**

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."

### **Proverbs 13:20**

He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

### **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: 10 If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

### **Luke 2:14**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

### **John 13:35**

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

## **4. They were inclusive.**

**Vs. 1**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east...

**John 17:20-21**

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

**5. They were givers.****Vs. 11**

Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

**Matthew 6:21**

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**6. They were faithfully disobedient.****Vs. 12**

And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**Acts 4:19-20**

But Peter and John answered them, “You yourselves judge which is right in God's sight - to obey you or to obey God. 20 We cannot stop talking about what we've seen and heard.”