

ADVENT 2016

The Magi

Text: Matthew 2:1-12 and Micah 5:1&2

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. In this week's sermon we saw that each of the characters in this narrative had completely different perspectives on Jesus. The Magi invested time and effort in studying the scriptures, acting on their belief of who Jesus was by traveling thousands of kilometres to worship, and giving sacrificially.
 - a. How does your faith stack up in comparison?
 - b. Do you study the scriptures? Do you value the word of God? If so how does it compel you to respond to Jesus?
 - c. What could we do as small groups to encourage each other to continue on in our quest to worship the King of Kings?
 - d. The Magi gave sacrificial gifts to Jesus, but Jesus tells us that if we give a cup of cold water in His name, that we've done it unto Him. How can we respond to the community around the church (or for that matter, wherever you live or work) to demonstrate Christ's love.
2. What was at the heart of King Herod's rejection of Christ?
 - a. How do we parallel Herod's hostility towards Christ?
 - b. What types of things are there in our own lives that we place over Christ?
 - c. How does that fit into sync with the command that "Thou shalt have no other gods before me?" Deut. 5:7
 - d. In what ways do people actively suppress the truth?
 - e. Read Romans 8:7. Discuss what it means to have the mind set on the flesh. How is it hostile to God?
3. Discuss why the chief priest and teachers of the law were hostile towards Jesus.
 - a. What is the difference between passive and active rejection of Jesus?
 - b. Discuss Brendan Manning's Quote...
The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips and walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.
 - c. Read Hebrews 9:27. How is it that the hope of one group can be the downfall of another group?
4. How are Jesus' birth and death inextricably linked?
5. What are some ways that we can use the celebration of Christmas as a tool to share the good news?
6. Read Isaiah 9:6. Discuss the titles of the long-awaited Messiah. How does Jesus fulfill these titles?
7. "King of the Jews" was the banner that Jesus was born under but it was also the charge he died under as it hung over his cross. How do you keep Jesus in focus during your Christmas celebrations?