

Seeking, Seeing, & Savoring Jesus Sunday: 12/18/2023 – Pastor Lenard Tavernelli – Matthew 2:1-12

“Seek and savor Jesus by joyfully devoting yourself to him and offering him your best because he is worthy.”

Overview

This week we looked at the familiar story of the Magi. Pastor Lenard clarified some of the traditional views that have been passed down about these men and reminded us that some of these views are founded more in tradition than in God’s word. Pastor Lenard also warned us of a great danger in becoming insensitive to the things of God, especially those things that are familiar to us. In this passage we learned about the great financial cost the Magi would have to take in the journey to Bethlehem. This cost illustrated the devotion these men had to even embark on the journey, a reminder to us the Jesus deserves our complete devotion. In contrast, we looked at Herod who selfishly would do anything to keep his throne. Herod helps us ask the question; “Do we seek Jesus for who his is or what he can give us?” Our devotion, our truly seeing him, will cause us to joyfully respond to his Word, to offer him our best, and bring us to obedience in all areas of life.

“Christ does not exist in order to make much of us. We exist in order to enjoy making much of him.”
-John Piper

Outline

- 1) Seek Jesus with complete devotion (1-2): Psalm 40:16, Psalm 27:8, Numbers 24:17, Jeremiah 29:13
- 2) Seek Jesus by avoiding selfish pitfalls (3-8): Romans 3:10-11
 - a. Self-preserving fear
 - b. Self-satisfied familiarity
- 3) Savor Jesus by joyfully seeing him (9-12): 1 Corinthians 10:31
 - a. Worship by joyfully responding to God’s revelation (10-11): Galatians 3:1, 1 Peter 1:8
 - b. Worship by humbly offering of your best to God (11): Romans 12:1, Hebrews 12:28-29
 - c. Worship by attentively obeying God’s direction (12)

Discussion Questions

- 1) Worship is a theme in this passage? Outside of the songs of a Sunday service what are other ways you actively worship Jesus?
 - a. In what areas do you give leftovers as opposed to first fruits?
- 2) The idea of worship implies devotion. Pastor Lenard spoke about are ability to become insensitive to the familiar things of God.
 - a. How would you describe being insensitive to God?
 - b. How would you describe the pitfalls of self-satisfied familiarity?
- 3) Where do you see yourself being insensitive to God? What is in your heart that is distracting you from God?
 - a. What do can you do grow in your focused devotion?
- 4) Was there anything else that stood out in the sermon?