

Sermon Based Questions - December 28, 2014

Introduction:

1. Dave reminded us that it's hard to look at the Christmas season with fresh eyes. Did you feel that way this year, or were there things that still felt fresh and new?
2. How are the magi different from the other religious leaders mentioned in this passage?

Understanding:

3. The wise men came from the East, most likely in Persia – which was formerly the kingdom of Babylon. What did Dave say was the connection between these wise men and the Old Testament prophet Daniel, who was taken into captivity in Babylon?
4. Why was Herod so upset at the news that a baby had been born in Bethlehem?
5. The wise men were risking their own lives by defying Herod's command to return to him after they found Jesus. Are there any King Herod's in your life? Sometimes we have to choose between pleasing God and pleasing someone else in our life.
6. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 tells us that God will provide us with the resources to be generous toward others. What do these verses teach us about giving, and our attitude toward helping others?
7. When the wise men finally arrived at Jesus' home, how did they respond to this newborn King?
8. In what ways do you see God working "behind the scenes" in this passage?

Application

9. Learning that Daniel, while he was a captive in Babylon, had a role in educating the wise men reminds us that even in the darkest times, God is at work weaving His master plan. If you are going through a difficult time now, ask God to show you how this might be used by Him for good.
10. Dave taught that often God gives more to those who give it away. When we encounter Jesus Christ personally, He changes our perspective to look outward toward those we can help. In the coming year, look for opportunities to have fun in giving to those in need.
11. Wise men and women still kneel before Jesus. Take some time this week to worship Jesus as King and Lord of your life.