

Lessons from Wise Men
Matthew 2:1-12

Review:

1. While God's creation can supply vague notions of the truth, only the written Word of God can reveal the Lord most clearly, telling us everything we need to know about our Savior and King
2. Unlike Herod, who focused purely on worldly power and wealth, King Jesus laid aside His power and glory so that all who trust in Him might be saved
3. King Jesus continues to welcome people from all over the world into His kingdom

Reflect:

1. What sources of truth do you trust? Which of these are in closest agreement with God's Word?
2. What characteristics do you look for in human leaders? Given the character of King Jesus, how should human rulers seek to lead others?
3. Why is it so important that the wise men were Gentiles? Why should it matter to you?

Go further: Read Psalm 19

1. What does verse 1 say that the heavens and the firmament reveal?
2. According to verse 2, what do each day and night do?
3. Verse 3 is perhaps best translated to say that the heavens do not utter audible words. Nevertheless, how far does verse 4 say that their message travels?
4. Where does God set a tabernacle, or tent, for the sun?
5. To what two kinds of people does David compare the sun in verse 5? Why do you think he makes these comparisons?
6. How far does verse 6 say the sun travels? From what is nothing able to hide?
7. How does verse 7 describe the Law of the Lord? Why is it useful?
8. How does verse 7 describe the testimony of the Lord? What does it do for simple, or naïve people?
9. How does verse 8 describe the statutes of the Lord? What effect do they have on the hearts of their hearers?
10. How does verse 8 describe the commandment of the Lord? What does it do for our eyes?
11. What does verse 9 say about the fear of the Lord? How long does it last?
12. What two things does verse 9 say about the judgments of the Lord?
13. According to verse 10, what is less desirable than God's Word?
14. What is less sweet than God's Word?
15. According to verse 11, what does God's Word do for His servant?
16. What brings great reward?
17. From what does David ask God to cleanse him?
18. From what does David want God to keep him from doing?
19. At the end of verse 13, how does David expect his life to change after God answers his prayers?
20. According to verse 14, what two things does David want to be acceptable to God?
21. At the end of the psalm, in what two ways does David describe the Lord?

Summary and Application:

1. In Psalm 19, David compares the heavens in general and the sun in particular, to the Word of the Lord. In what ways are they similar? How are they different?
2. What is the answer to David's question in verse 12? How does God's Word help with this problem?
3. In verse 13, David asks the Lord not to allow his sin to have dominion over him. How can we be free from sin's power and control?
4. Given David's description of God's Word, what changes do you plan to make regarding your weekly Bible reading?