

Matthew 2:1-12 "The Way of the Wise"

Read Matthew 2:1-12.

1. The story of the Wise Men is the classic Epiphany text for much of Western Christianity. What were two reasons Matthew began his gospel with this story? Can you think of any others?
2. There are many questions and details that accompany this fascinating story. What are some questions that often arise? Are there any questions in particular that you would like to know the answer to?
3. Why was Herod troubled when the wise men asked about the child born King of the Jews? What implications did the baby being the Christ have for him in particular?
4. Herod's fear and trouble rested in the perceived 'threat' to his identity. Where in particular does our acceptance of Jesus' identity as king challenge us in our own lives? Each of us is tempted to base our identity on something other than being the precious child of God (some examples: as a 'hard worker', 'good friend', 'mother', 'philanthropist', 'single', 'creative', etc). Spend some time reflecting on where you might be tempted to lean on your identity apart from your identity in Christ. How does Christ want to speak into that part of your life? Share as you feel comfortable.
5. What are some ways that God has revealed himself in your life? Has he ever revealed himself in an unexpected way in your life, or in the life of someone you know? What did that look like? Did you have trouble believing it was God? Why or why not?
6. Can you think of a time where God met you where you were, and as a result you were moved to worship him?