

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In Matthew 2:9–11, you see that true joy doesn't wait for perfect circumstances; it rests in God's promises. The Wise Men followed the star because God Himself was leading them. Their obedience, even in the in-between moments, brought them joy before they ever saw Jesus. Scripture describes their joy as overflowing, "they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy." Their joy came from revelation, not results. And when they finally saw Jesus, their joy naturally turned into worship filled with humility, awe, and costly sacrifice. Their gifts point to the gospel itself: Jesus is the King, God, and Savior who came to die for sinners. This passage calls you to trust God's leading, receive His joy, and offer Him your whole life in worship.

MAIN POINTS

1. God Finds - "...the star...went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was." (Matthew 2:9)

God is the One who reveals, guides, and directs your story. Like the Wise Men, you are called to walk in obedience, even when clarity comes one step at a time (Psalm 23:1–3; Proverbs 3:5–6).

- God leads you more faithfully than any human authority (like Herod).
- God often gives direction *after* you take a step of faith.

2. Joy Fills - "They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy." (Matthew 2:10)

The Wise Men experienced a "stacked" joy, overflowing, abundant, almost too much for words. This joy didn't come from results. It came from revelation; God had shown them the way to Jesus (Luke 2:10–11).

- Joy is rooted in who Jesus is, not what you get from Him.
- Joy grows as you trust God's promises.

3. Worship Flows - "They fell down and worshiped Him...they offered Him gifts." (Matthew 2:11)

Real worship is your response to seeing Jesus for who He is: your King, your God, and your Savior (John 4:23–24).

Three Components of Genuine Worship

1. Your Posture — You bow your life before Jesus.
2. Your Proclamation — You honor Him as Lord in word and heart.
3. Your Personal Sacrifice — You give Him what costs you something.

Big Idea: Joy doesn't wait on outcome, joy rests in God's promises

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does Matthew emphasize the Wise Men's overflowing joy before they saw Jesus? (v.10) *Possible Answer:* because biblical joy is rooted in God's promises, not outward results. Their joy came from believing God's revelation (1 Peter 1:8–9).

2. What does the Wise Men's act of worship teach you about who Jesus truly is? (v.11) *Possible Answer:* their posture and gifts show that Jesus is King, God, and Savior (Colossians 1:15–17).

3. What is one area where you need God to restore your joy? *Possible Answer:* I may need joy in my daily responsibilities, a family situation, or a place where I feel discouraged (Psalm 51:12).

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Just like the Wise Men followed the light that led them to Jesus, you are called to respond to the greater light of the gospel. The gifts they brought point to the good news: Jesus is the King who rules, the God who draws near, and the Savior who died and rose again.

If you are a believer: you are invited to repent of anything that has taken your eyes off Jesus and believe again that His promises are enough for your joy. Turn from self-reliance and return to the joy of worship.

If you are not yet a believer: God is drawing you, just as He drew the Wise Men. Turn from your sin of unbelief, trust in Jesus' death and resurrection, and receive the joy that only He can give. Jesus came so that you may know Him, worship Him, and find your joy in Him forever.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Please see our **Advent Devotionals** through December 25, 2025.