

WORD

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Matthew 2:11

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

The Magi have waited for years to see the promised Messiah. They prepared well and when the moment of Jesus' birth came, they immediately set to journey. When they saw the Savior, they worshipped Him and honored Him with gifts. These wise men show us three traits of biblical worship.

- **Worship aligns with the truth.**

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:1,2

The Magi didn't know the Messiah aside from what they have read about Him in the prophecy. Seeing a baby in swaddling clothes lying in a manger when they were told to expect the coming of a King must have taken much faith in them to trust God's Word and promise. Why do we often find it hard to worship based on the truth? What does the Bible say about how we should worship (John 4:24)?

- **Worship comes from the heart.**

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

Matthew 2:7,8

King Herod pretended that he desired to worship the child Jesus but his evil motive could not be hidden—God redirected the Magi's route coming back from visiting Jesus and He also warned Mary and Joseph to leave Bethlehem to protect the child Savior. People worship God for many reasons, right or wrong. The thing is, God knows our hearts. For what reasons is God worthy of our worship?

- **Worship transforms a person in how he or she sees God.**

¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Matthew 2:10,11

The Magi were transformed as a result of their desire to worship the child Jesus. They took on a position of humility when they saw and recognized that the child before them was indeed the promised Messiah and King. The lowly place they were in did not matter at all. How has worship transformed the way you see God?

SO WHAT

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- How can God's Word help you worship Him in spirit and truth?
- What are your usual reasons in worshipping God? What part of your attitude in worship can still be improved?
- Name a few characters in the Bible that were transformed when they worshipped God. How can you relate to their stories?

NOW WHAT

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- How can you enrich your knowledge of the truth about God? How do you plan to put this to action?
- What practical steps can you take to keep your heart and motives in check in worshipping God?
- What areas in your life need to be transformed by God? What are the opportunities available for you to worship God?