

## When Christmas is Over

### Matthew 2:1-23

My father-in-law had a saying...

#### 1. Christmas Isn't Over 'till You Opened Your Last Present

The Magi arrive after the birth of Jesus; not at the stable on the night of his birth. How do we know?

**Vs. 1** “Now *after Jesus was born* in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem”

**Vs. 11** “*And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him...*”

They have secured a house.

Joseph has secured a job and is back at work.

“A tremendous amount of legend has concentrated round these Magi: there is no reason to suppose that there were three of them, that they were kings, or that we know their names. For centuries the Magi had been a tribe of priests in Persia, but the name had also come to be applied to magicians and astrologers...”

Michael Green, The Message of Matthew: The Kingdom of Heaven, The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 66.

How Little They Had to Work On:

**Vs. 2** “Saying, ‘Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’”

Numbers 24:17 “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel”

How little they had to work on, and yet they acted on it. Others knew so much more and never acted.

**Vs. 4-6** “And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”

## **2. Sooner or Later Christmas is Over**

- They experience the birth of the Baby
- They are visited by Shepherds
- They received reports of angels – like their very own visits from angels
- They hear prophetic words from Simeon and Anna in the temple courts
- Later, they are visited by Wise men, bringing gifts & their worship
- At the end of the high, there’s a Herod

Vs. 16 “Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.”

*Nothing is more over than Christmas once Christmas is over!*

*But...*

## **3. When Christmas is Over, God Still Speaks**

**Vs. 13** “Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, ‘Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.’”

- When God speaks, however He speaks, He always makes Himself clear
- Any person who is yielded to God to do God’s will will know God’s will.

#### **4. When Christmas is Over, God Gets Us Moving**

**Vs. 13-14** “Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt”

- After the blessings and the high there comes a time for obedience
- There are seasons for savoring, seasons of solidifying and, then, there are times for action

Notice: Joseph did not wait for the morning. He got up and they left before daylight.

#### **5. When Christmas is Over, God Continues to Accomplish His Purposes**

Christmas implements the plan. It launches it.

**Vs. 15** “and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, ‘Out of Egypt I called My Son.’”

**Vs. 23** “And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, ‘He shall be called a Nazarene.’”

#### **Take-Aways:**

- The big tests come, not in the glowing highs, but in the lows and in the valleys of hard obedience
- Sometimes, there is eyes-wide-open opposition to God and to his Plan
- Even in the face of man’s worst, God is still moving
- God’s purposes are about His glory, not our convenience
- Evil’s worst ends up accomplishing God’s will.
- To All Forces of Evil: Resistance is futile