

GOING DEEPER

WEEK TWENTY FOUR

Hey Students,

This week we will be diving deeper into Matthew 2. Here we read about the birth of Jesus. This story has some strange figures such as the magi and King Herod. At that time, King Herod was a power happy king. So much so that he was threatened by an infant born in a manger. We read about the mysterious magi from the east who traveled afar to worship the newly born baby. What are we to make of all this fuss over a baby born in a manger? Why is a powerful king threatened by a baby? Why would wise men want to worship Him? Perhaps, because Jesus was no ordinary baby. Perhaps, it is because He was the long-awaited Messiah. Perhaps, it is because He is as Revelation 17:14 says, "The King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

I am confident that as we go deeper in Matthew 2 this week, we will see the birth of Jesus in a whole new light. With that being said, I pray that God will show us Jesus as He is: The King of Kings and Lord of Lord's.

Jesse Rivers

DAY ONE

Matthew 2:1-2

Bethlehem was an unimportant city 6 miles south of Jerusalem, yet God chose that city for Jesus to be born there. What does this tell you about the humility of Jesus?

Why does scripture say that Jesus was born in Bethlehem? (HINT: Micah 5:2)

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was from Jerusalem. How did she end up in Bethlehem to give birth to Jesus? (HINT: Luke 2:1-7)

Luke 2 demonstrates the length God goes to bring his will to pass. How does knowing that God moves on the hearts of rulers to impact his people give you peace? (HINT: Proverbs 21:1)

DAY TWO

Matthew 2:3-6

Jesus' birth shook things up a bit. The magi traveled from the far east to worship Him, and King Herod was extremely troubled. Thinking about how King Herod and the wise men responded to the birth of Jesus, how does that impact your response to Jesus on a daily basis?

All of the scribes (teachers of the Bible) knew where the magi could find Jesus. However, the Bible doesn't mention any of them going to worship Him. What does this tell you about having head knowledge of God but not heart knowledge?

The scribes knew exactly where to find the promises of the coming redeemer in scripture. (Micah 5:2). We can know the Bible inside and out, acknowledge Jesus with our lips, but our hearts can still be far from him. What does this tell you about your heart? (HINT: Isaiah 29:13)

DAY THREE

Mathew 2:7-15

When Herod heard of the scripture prophesying the coming of Jesus, he became even more worried. Although he was a king, he was threatened from the birth of an infant in Bethlehem. What does this say to you about the importance of the birth of Christ?

What were the uses of frankincense and myrrh mentioned in verse 11?

Joseph obeyed God's command to flee to Egypt with Mary and Jesus. As we will read, this was all to fulfill what the prophets said about Jesus years and years before Jesus was born (Hebrews 11:1). What does this reveal to you about God?

DAY FOUR

Matthew 2:16-18

What do you learn about the hearts of men from this passage? (HINT: Ephesians 2:1-8)

Only a miracle of God can change someone's heart to love God fully. Only the grace of God saves someone. How does knowing this encourage you to share the Gospel?

DAY FIVE

Matthew 2:19-21

Here again, we see the obedience of Joseph. An angel of The Lord appears, and Joseph obeys. What does the Bible tell us about the importance of obedience to the Lord? (HINT: 1 Samuel 15:22-24)

Herod is now dead and Jesus, though an infant, finally arrives as the awaited king. However, he is not the king that most of Israel has been awaiting. What kind of ruler were the disciples looking for? (HINT: Acts 1:6)

What kingdom had Jesus come to set up? (HINT: John 18:36)

According to scripture, Jesus clearly established his earthly kingdom by His triumphant victory at the cross (Mark 1:15; Col 2:13-15). By faith, we enter into this spiritual kingdom. Knowing this, what is our mission as believers? (HINT: Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Cor 5:20-21)

DAY SIX

Matthew 2:22-23

Joseph again follows the direction of God in a dream and settles his family outside of Jerusalem in Nazareth. This was a small insignificant town with presumably a bad reputation (John 1:46). Jesus, the King of Kings, did not come from the best of towns, he did not come from wealth, nor did he have the best of looks (Isaiah 53). How does knowing all of this about our God give you hope and encourage you?

We live in a culture that is much different than the Biblical culture. Yet, in many ways it is the same. People from Nazareth were looked down upon, it was a town of the poor, and the object of scorn. However, Jesus boldly introduced himself to Saul of Tarsus as Jesus of Nazareth (Acts 22:8). What does this tell us about not stereotyping individuals from certain areas? How does knowing that God shows no partiality toward one group of people over another encourage you?

DAY SEVEN

Reflect back on the past week and answer the questions below.

Where have you seen God at work in your life this week?

From this past week, what made the most significant impact to you in your personal study?

How is the Holy Spirit leading you to respond in light of this past week's study?