

Sermon Notes – Matthew 2:1-12 – Follow the Pagans

A pagan is someone who doesn't believe about God the way we believe about God. They do not worship the same God or even necessarily the same type of God.

We preachers do not want to make heroes out of pagans. You might start to get the idea we don't care what you believe. But we do care. If we endorse pagans, you might start to think you can do whatever you want to do, and you can't.

But it is the Pagans who lead us to Jesus.

Read Matthew 2:1-3 – There Can Only Be One King

All searches for Jesus, including yours, occur in a specific place and a specific time, with specific issues that dominate your day.

Herod does not want a new king. There can only be one king. And so it is with us. Jesus is the new king in town.

But you may be used to being king.

Your search for Jesus will not succeed if you are unwilling to trade your sovereignty. Sovereignty means you call your own shots. You decide what is best for you. You have to trade control to find Jesus. You have to give up being king.

Read Matthew 2:4-6 – Is Religion Looking for God?

If there was anyone who would be expecting or searching for God, you would think it would be the religious leaders.

It bothers me the most that now that you've heard the king ask the religious leaders where the Messiah was to be born, you never hear from the religious leaders again.

The religious leaders went back to teaching people about God, when God was only 6 miles away.

Read Matthew 2:7-8 – Herod Redirects the Magi

Herod sends these foreigners to be his spies.

You would hope a king of a nation would do anything to pursue the best for that nation. But you would be wrong.

You would hope that religious leaders would do anything to help their people encounter God. But you would be wrong.

Read Matthew 2:9-12 – Follow the Pagans

We are following the pagans because no one else is searching for Jesus. No one else is expecting God to break through.

The Pagans did not approach Jesus without a trade, without an offering, without a gift.

Please Note:

When Moses encountered God, he was forced to trade his shoes.

When Paul encountered God, he was forced to trade his sight.

When Peter encountered God, he was forced to forget the past.

When David encountered God, he was forced to trade his child.

The gift of God is absolutely free. You can't purchase it with a billion dollars. You can't earn it with a million hours of service to your community.

But I can tell you that you won't encounter Jesus without a significant trade. You will have to give up almost everything.

It will be the biggest sacrifice of your entire life. It will be the scariest thing you've ever done. And it will be totally worth it.