

## When it is Wise to Seek Jesus

Matthew 2:1-12

People respond in a variety of ways to the message of Christmas. Some rejoice. Some are offended. Some are nonplused. The account of the Magi searching for Jesus portrays all of these responses. We learn that *those who seek Jesus Christ are invited to worship him.*

### Wise people seek Jesus (1-2)

King Herod was not Jewish, but was declared “King of the Jews” by the Roman Senate. He ruled Palestine from 37-4 B.C. He was cruel and merciless, jealous, suspicious, and paranoid. He killed his enemies including his brother-in-law, one of his wives, and three sons.

Rather than kings, the magi were of a priestly caste from Persia or Babylon. They were skilled in astronomy and astrology. The magi probably learned about the one true God and the coming Messiah from Daniel, who was the leader of the magi (Daniel 2:48).

The star was either a natural phenomenon such as a star, comet, supernova, or conjunction of planets; a supernatural phenomenon; or an angel.

The wise men correctly interpret the signs and seek after God.

### Foolish people ignore Jesus (3-8)

Knowing he is not the rightful heir to David’s throne, Herod feels threatened by the birth of a new king.

The religious leaders know the facts about the Messiah’s birth, but don’t appear overly impressed or interested.

### Wise people worship Jesus (9-12)

The star reappears and leads the wise men to the child in Bethlehem.

The magi honor Jesus as they present their gifts to him.

| Foolish People |                              | Wise people |
|----------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Herod</b>   | <b>Scribes &amp; Priests</b> | <b>Magi</b> |
| Intimidated    | Indifferent                  | Intrigued   |
| Duplicity      | Disturbed                    | Devotion    |
| Troubled       | Factual                      | Rejoiced    |
| Opposing       | Ignoring                     | Seeking     |
| Antagonism     | Apathy                       | Adoration   |
| Hostility      | Disinterest                  | Worship     |

*Those who seek Jesus Christ are invited to worship him.*