

# Worship at Christmas

## Matthew 2:7-11

### Matthew 2:7-11 (NASB)

<sup>7</sup> “Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared.

<sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”

<sup>9</sup> After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was.

<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

<sup>11</sup> After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

Of all the responses we could have toward Christmas, worship is the one that pleases God. Unlike the scribes and chief priests who showed no interest in the report of the Messiah’s birth, or Herod, who responded with hatred, we have every reason to rejoice greatly that Jesus came to earth in human flesh. We are truly blessed that Christ’s purpose in coming was for His death on the cross to pay the penalty our sins deserved.

The magi traveled all the way from the East for the sole purpose of worshipping the infant King of the Jewish people. They knew that a star signaled His birth, and they journeyed hundreds of miles to find Him.

The magi believed that God was leading them to the King, and when they finally arrived in Bethlehem, they worshipped the Christ child by humbling themselves and presenting Him with gifts. These were wealthy, respected men, yet they considered that little boy to be greater than themselves.

This year, we need to compare our response to the Savior with the magi’s example of worship. Is Jesus the focus of our celebrations, or have we let other interests take first place? Are we more concerned about gifts for friends and family than we are about self-sacrifice for the Lord’s sake?

It’s easy to become focused on the traditions of Christmas to the point that we lose sight of Jesus. So, let’s step back in time and imagine all the inconveniences, setbacks, and vulnerability the magi endured in their pursuit of the infant King. Shouldn’t we also be willing to follow Him, no matter what it takes?