

Christmas 2008: Tough Times Call for Radical Faith

Serious Seeking in a “Whatever” World

Matthew 2:1-12, 16

Introduction: Our world is passionate about little things...cool things, like iPhones, video games, gadgets and fantasy teams. But our world takes a “whatever” attitude toward the transcendent things in life: God, family, truth and relationships. In Matthew 2:1-12 we catch a glimpse of what it means to be – and not be – a serious seeker.

1. EXAMPLE OF THE MAGI – When you’re desperate, you’ll do anything to seek truth. *Matthew 2:1-2*

- A. Who the Magi were not.
- B. Who the Magi are.
- C. What the Magi do.
- D. What their example means for us: All of us are seeking something.

2. EXAMPLE OF THE WORLD – When you’re not desperate, you’ll avoid seeking at all costs. *Matthew 2:3-8, 16*

- A. Herod – If Herod finds the truth, it will destroy his power.
- B. Religious Leaders – They’ve substituted head-knowledge for God’s love.
- C. Common People – They suffer from the fear of being out of control. 2:3b
- D. Us – Most of us don’t seek because something has blocked our desperation for God.

3. BACK TO THE MAGI – For those who do find, no expense is too great to express your worship. *Matthew 2:9-12*

- A. God assists the Magi in their continued search. 2:9
- B. The Magi respond to God with lavish expressions of love. 2:10-12