

Joy Unspeakable

Sounds of the Season

Week 6

Matthew 2:1-2

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ²'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.'

God is consistently speaking... inviting us into [JOURNEY](#).

Matthew 2:3-9

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, 'Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?'

⁵'In Bethlehem in the land of Judah,' they said, 'for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel. ⁷Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸Then he told them, 'Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!' ⁹After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was.

God will provide [GUIDANCE](#) along the way.

Matthew 2:10-11

When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**The journey will be COSTLY,
and yet... it will lead to great JOY.**

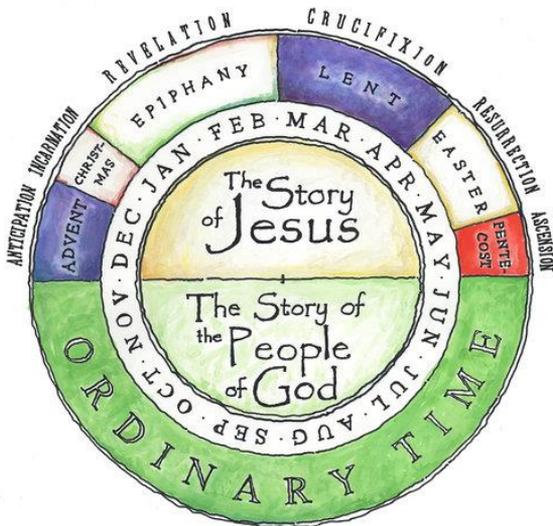
God is seeking us. We start out the quest intending to discover something, but we end up being discovered. We think we are looking for something only to find that someone was looking for us. We assume that we're ascending to God and realize that God is descending to us. This is divine mercy. (Matt Woodley)

What journey is God inviting you to take this year?

Potential Ideas...

Spirit	How can I grow in my relationship with God?	
Body	How am I stewarding my 'temple' and my health?	
Mind	What am I learning? What do I need to learn?	
Home (Family)	How am I investing in my family relationships?	
Work	In what way(s) do I need to grow in my profession?	
Resources	How am I stewarding my time, talent & treasure?	
Relationships	How can I build into the lives of my friends?	

Notes:



How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) *Admitting that you, like everyone, are in need of rescue.*
- 2) *Asking God to forgive your sins.*
- 3) *Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.*

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

For Further Reflection:

- *Reflect upon Matthew 2:1-11. What are some of the lessons we can learn from the story of the Magi's search for Jesus?*
- *Pastor Josh mentioned that God is consistently inviting us into journey. What are the ways (methods of delivery... like the star for the Magi) that God has invited or is now inviting you into journey with Him?*
- *Give testimony of the past ways in which God has helped guide you along in your walk with Him.*
- *How are you processing through the idea of the costliness of following Jesus? How has this been true for you?*
- *Reread the quote from Matt Woodley. Have you found this to be true in your life? Give praise to God for his willingness to seek you out and lead you towards lasting joy!*
- *How would you answer the last reflection question in the sermon? What journey is God inviting you into? Is there a 'dashboard indicator' area of life that sticks out to you as a potential starting point?*
- *Reflect back on our entire 'Joy Unspeakable' series: What has God been attempting to communicate to you in this series/season?*