

In our message last week we can find a very important question. Who is king of our life? We can't be like Herod and be king of our own life can we? Should we? I hope that we all see and recognize that Jesus is the only one who can be our king. So that's where we're at this morning. We are at an understanding that Jesus is the King of our lives. Not ourselves, not someone or something else, just Jesus. He is our king. So what do we do with that? Let's pick up where we left off starting in Matthew 2: 9-12

Matthew 2: 9 After they had heard the king, (they were in king Herod's court at the time) they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

These magi came with gifts. Let's look at these gifts and see if we can figure out what they represent. Gold. It represents the royalty and kingship of Jesus. Frankincense was a symbol of His priestly role, setting him apart from a typical king. Frankincense was used by priests and burned in the temple for religious ceremonies. Then there's myrrh. What exactly was myrrh used for? In ancient Egypt it was used for the mummification process. It is connected to death and the burial process. It was also known for its healing purposes. Some scholars believe it points toward the death and resurrection of Christ. And just as the magi brought gifts for Jesus if we recognize him as our king then we should have a gift for him also. So let's look at that the most important gift, the fourth gift. Hold up, it's only three gifts right? Gold, frankincense and myrrh? The fourth one is hidden in there we just have to find it. In verse 11 it says they bowed down and worshiped him. Did you see it? The fourth gift is worship. Remember my question a few minutes ago? What do we do now that we recognize Jesus is the one true king? The answer is simple, we worship Him. That leads me to our main point.

We shouldn't worship out of convenience or obligation, we should worship out of obedience.

Let's break down the word obedience. One definition is submitting to another's authority. We submit to Jesus because he is our authority. We worship Jesus because He is king of our lives and we are obedient to Him. Look at the journey the magi had to make. I'm sure it wasn't easy. They found themselves in the court of King Herod and I don't think the scripture shows how much danger they were really in at the time. They were standing in front of the King asking him if he knew where the one true King was at. There is nothing convenient about that. They didn't take this long journey out of obligation. Let's be honest, it's hard for us to get up on Sunday and drive just a few miles out of obligation much less several hundred miles on foot. They came to worship Jesus out of obedience. They knew that he was the King of the Jews, the messiah, the one true King, and they wanted to be obedient to Him.

We shouldn't worship out of convenience or obligation, we should worship out of obedience.

So what does that look like for us today. The first thing I want you to see is that

Even in life's **storms** we should **worship** Jesus.

We don't get a pass just because things aren't going our way. Imagine yourself back in Herod's day. Maybe back during the medieval times. The king is having a big celebration. Maybe it's for his birthday, maybe it's just because he wants the people to recognize his authority over them. Picture this. You're having a bad day. Things just haven't been going your way. There is trouble at the farm. Your favorite chicken died. You just don't feel good. The king's messenger shows up at your house and you tell him you won't be going because things just aren't going your way at the moment. What do you think the outcome would be? I feel like you may have just signed your death sentence. Refusing to come before the king during that time is something you just didn't do. Don't we find ourselves doing that today? The only difference is we do it to Jesus. Let's be real for a moment. We've all been there. The storms of life can hammer us so hard to the point where we just don't feel like worshipping Jesus then. It doesn't have to just be a worship service on a Sunday morning either. It can be going to church, prayer time, bible study. The point I'm trying to make is that if we're obedient to God then we will worship him not only when things are going good, but during life's storms as well.

We shouldn't worship out of convenience or obligation, we should worship out of obedience.

The second thing I want us to see is that

If Jesus is King of our life then we should live a **lifestyle of worship**.

I hope that sounds familiar to you. It's one of our core values as a church. As a church we depend on Christ in authentic worship. We believe that worship is a lifestyle of joyful obedience, not reluctant observance. So what does that mean? It means that worship for us should be something we do everyday, not just an event we go to. It's super important for us, but it's not all there is. We can worship through the way we pray, through our fellowship with others, through bible study and discussion in your small groups, by sitting down and reading a comic style bible with children at night. It is something that you do each day and something you find etched in your dna as as christian. But doesn't it seem like we find ourselves doing these things out of obligation? Because as Christians this is what we're supposed to do right? That's why we depend on Christ for authentic worship. So that we can come to him with joyful obedience.

We shouldn't worship out of convenience or obligation, we should worship out of obedience.

The last thing I want us to see is that

We should never **leave** the same way we **came**

Let's look back at verse 12. And having been warned in dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. I think this verse is very symbolic for us today. Just as the magi left a different way than they came, after we come to Jesus in worship, we should never leave the same way we came. Paul described the christian life as a journey. The word journey focuses on the process of getting there, not the arrival. It implies change, transition, and transformation. That's what's so great about our God. We come to him with the gift of worship and He gives us an even bigger gift in return. The gift of a relationship with him. What kind of King let's his subjects have a close relationship with

him? Jesus, that's who. When we worship Jesus with true and authentic worship the holy spirit works within us constantly changing us and transforming us to be more like Christ. It draws us closer in our relationship with Him each time. That's why it's important for us to worship him out of obedience. We shouldn't worship out of convenience or obligation, we should worship out of obedience. Not only is worship the most important gift we can give Jesus, It's one of the best gifts He gives to us.

I hope we've seen today that we need to come to Jesus with worship that's fit for a king. True, authentic worship out of obedience, not convenience or obligation. But what if you're here today or watching online and you don't know if Jesus is king of your life. That leads to the best gift that Jesus gives to us. Himself. The gift of salvation. It's real simple, He loved us so much that he gave His life for us so that we could have a relationship with Him. Do you know Him as your king today. Does the way you worship reflect that He is king of your life. I hope and pray that the holy spirit works within us this morning changing us and transforming us so that we may leave different than the way we came. Let's pray.