



**Series:** A Thrill of Hope

**Sermon:** Part 3: In The Pursuit Of Joy

**Date:** Sunday, December 15th, 2024

Scripture referenced: Matthew 2:1-11

Hedonic adaptation: When after experiencing a surge in happiness because of a new thing or experience in our life, we eventually go back to how we were feeling before the thing or experience

Common Misconceptions About The Wise Men:

1. Matthew does not say that these men were kings
2. Matthew does not say that there were only 3 men
3. They did not come on the exact day of Jesus' birth
4. Matthew says they came from the East, but he does not say that they were Jewish

Having Real Joy:

**1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of joy**

\_\_\_\_\_ comes from the Hebrew word Mashiach which means the “anointed one” or the “chosen one.”

*“If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me.” (Jeremiah 29:13)*

*“Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father!” (John 14:9)*

**2. \_\_\_\_\_ joy**

**3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of joy**

*And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance. Herod's brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: “A cry was heard in Ramah - weeping and great mourning. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted, for they are dead.” (Matthew 2:12,16-18)*



Joy is not a feeling, joy is found in the Person of Jesus.

Joy is a \_\_\_\_\_ that we make regardless of the circumstances and it is choosing to put our faith in Him.

*But may all who search for You be filled with joy and gladness in You. May those who love Your salvation repeatedly shout, "The Lord is great!" (Psalm 40:16)*

### **How Do We Experience His Joy Despite Our Circumstances?**

- 1. Constantly \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus**
- 2. Honor and \_\_\_\_\_ Him by bringing to Him what we have: our lives, our time, our talents, and our resources**
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ God, like the wise men, did even in a potentially dangerous situation for them**

*"As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. If you keep My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." (John 15:9-11)*

*Because of the joy awaiting Him, He [Jesus] endured the cross, disregarding its shame. (Hebrews 12:2)*

**Bottom Line:** *Finding Jesus equals finding joy.*

#### ***Questions to reflect on this week or with others:***

- 1. How do you respond to Jesus' arrival? a) Do you feel threatened and angry like Herod? b) Do you respond with indifference and apathy like the priests and teachers of the law? c) Or are you moved to seek Him, find Him, worship and obey Him like the wise men?*
- 2. What is your next step to take this week during the season of Advent?*

*Songs used in service: God and God Alone (Chris Tomlin), Same God (Elevation Worship), Is He Worthy? (Shane & Shane), Joy To The World [Joyful, Joyful] (Phil Wickham)*

**Any prayer requests?**

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**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What can we be praying for you about?**