

Sunday, December 3, 2017

Mark Moser

Worship a Man?

Matthew 2:1–12

(black Bibles page 807; Children's Bibles page 1154)

Our sermon series merges two themes: (1) worship, and (2) the advent/Christmas season. Our theme verse is taken from the wise men, "[We] have come to worship him." (Matthew 2:2)

Worship the (human) king!

- *Holiday comparisons.* Our very American holidays, such as Thanksgiving and especially Independence Day, teach us that *kings are a bad idea*. Yet Christmas says, "Hooray, the king!"
- It's true, kings *are* a dangerous idea, as Samuel warned Israel (1 Samuel 8:10–18). But if the king is exceptional, things can work out very well (see David's reign).
- Christmas is about this: The Best King Ever has arrived. He will rule with justice and wisdom, and he will make things safe and prosperous (Isaiah 11:1–11).

Worship the (divine) King!

- "Wait a minute -- if we adopt the *full* meaning of the word 'worship,' we can't do this for anyone other than God, right?" That's correct. See Luke 4:8, for instance.

- Jesus never puts a limit on the worship he receives (Matthew 14:33; John 20:28). Compare this with the angel who is afraid of being worshiped in Revelation 22:9, or the apostle Peter, who says, "Stand up, I am only a man" (Acts 10:26).
- Consider the prophecy of Isaiah 9:6–7. "Mighty God, Everlasting Father"? This is no ordinary King!

Concluding thoughts about our corporate worship

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