

Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Date 12/17/23 Tim Fray

Watch the sermon at manheimbic.org/sermon.



Love- BIBLE PASSAGES - Matthew 2:1-12

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him

gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Other Passages: Gen. 3:15, Jere. 31:34, 2 Cor. 5:17

Connect:

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, and take time to fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

1. Can you relate to Tim's story in the beginning about God's love being an intentional response not a reaction to Adam and Eve's actions?
2. Think about a time you were invited to participate in something not forced, how did that feel compared to being required to participate in something?
3. Herod was insecure in his position as King, and as a result made some horrible decisions for the people he lead. Can you relate to your own fear or insecurity causing pain in the lives of those around you? Or perhaps you were on the receiving end of an insecure leader? What can you learn from Herod's reaction, and what steps can you take to settle your worth in God today?
4. What's one practical step you can take today to experientially know the love of God?
5. How can you as a group act out the love of God in your community?

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS