

Wishing for This Sermon Series Part Two: Wishing for Hope

Matthew 2:1-11

Sermon Series Summary

It's that time of year when we think about our hopes and dreams for another year, another day, and another season. Christmas time is a magical time in which it almost seems like our hopes, dreams, and wishes can become a reality. Through this sermon series we ask the simple question: What are you wishing for this Christmas? The answer for many is as straight forward as the question. They are looking for Peace, Hope, and most importantly a Christmas Miracle. Does God know our wishes? Can He make them come true?

Series Passage

- **Isaiah 9:6** – For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Big Idea

Big Idea – Hope Can Still Be Found, Hope is Here, Hope is in Christ Alone!

Big Question – What do you Hope for today?

Throughout the centuries people have constantly been searching for Hope. It does not matter what the social class, nationality, or background everyone looks for hope during the course of their lives. People will turn to just about anything or do anything to obtain the hope they so desperately desire. During this message we go through the Scriptures and study the true source of hope and how people have found it and lived with it throughout their lives. We turn first to the Wise Men and their search for the Hope of the world. It is here where we learn three most basic lessons about hope and how we can live with it in our lives.

Three Lessons Learned About Hope

Our Prayer – Ephesians 1:18

Lesson #1 – Hope Is... (Matthew 2:1-2)

- **Numbers 24:17**
- **Matthew 12:17-21**
- **Key Point** – The key point that we examine here is a simple statement defining the different elements of hope that comes from God. There is a worldly sense of hope that offers false security then there is God's definition of hope which offers much more than security. The Magi found the hope they longed for by following the signs that God gave them, pointing them in the direction toward a living hope. They could have chosen to ignore the signs God gave them but their desire to find the hope of the world far outweighed the temptation to do anything else. The Wise Men searched for the Hope of the world and they found more than they could have ever dreamed of. They found salvation, deliverance, God's glory, the resurrection, redemption, righteousness, eternal life, joy, peace, faith, love, boldness, and comfort. This and much more is what God's Hope gives to the world.

Lesson #2 – Hope Comes only as a Gift from God (Matthew 2:2-10)

- **Romans 5:1-5**
- **Colossians 1:27**
- **Key Point** – The second key point comes to us as we recognize the simple fact that there are two versions of hope in this world, God’s divine everlasting hope and the world’s fleeting hope. The hope that we need in our life, the hope that will sustain in our times of trial and throughout the entire course of our lives is the hope that only comes from the living God. We cannot earn it or buy it... We can only accept it as the gift it is!

Lesson #3 – Hope is only Obtained Through Christ Alone (Matthew 2:10-11)

- **1 Peter 3:15**
- **1 Timothy 4:10**
- **Key Point** – The final key point comes to us as we reflect on the final verses of the story of the Magi. As they left Herod’s palace, they once again witnessed the star and their hearts leapt with joy for they witnessed once again God’s glory. The star would lead them to the place of Bethlehem and there it stopped. It was here that they realized the true source of hope had finally come to the world and it was not just a little boy that they saw rather it was the glory of God. What the rest of the people around them were blind to see they witnessed first hand. This was not an ordinary child, this was the Savior of the world and the veil had been lifted from their eyes. Hope and salvation for the entire world had come and it was now here.

Questions to Consider

- Where have you been looking for hope?
- How can you find the hope you seek today?

Memory Verse

Luke 2:14 – *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."*

Challenge

- This Christmas season find one person or family to shower with the blessings of the Lord through prayer, encouragement, and provision.
- Finish the devotional guide, “The Twelve Prayers of Christmas” to prepare yourself for the celebration of Christmas.

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