

TRUE WORSHIP

John 4:24

Last week we were given examples of true worship as we considered the Wisemen.

When we examine the hearts of the wisemen;

we find characteristics that will enable our worship to be authentic.

The wisemen were anxious to worship the newborn king.

Matthew 2:1, 2

The wisemen had hearts that were right for worship.

I. A HEART THAT IS RIGHT FOR WORSHIP PLANS AHEAD.

A. Why did the wisemen see Christ's star in the east?

Because they were looking for it!

B. Why did they bring gifts?

Because they intended to worship!

C. Many believers do not consider how important planning for worship is.

They expect the pastor to prepare his sermon.

They expect the song leader & musicians to prepare the music.

They expect to hear a powerful message and uplifting music.

D. The reality is:

Every one of us must plan ahead for worship.

1 Peter 1:13-16; Romans 12:1, 2; James 4:8a

II. A HEART THAT IS RIGHT FOR WORSHIP PARTICIPATES WITH JOY.

A. Herod and Jerusalem were " *deeply disturbed* " at the announcement of the birth of Christ.

Matthew 2:3

B. The wisemen however, were filled with joy.

Matthew 2:10, 11

C. What effect does the thought of worship have on you?

[Not Singing; Not Studying; Not being Comforted; WORSHIPING!]

Does it cause you to feel disturbed or distressed?

Does it cause any emotional reaction?

Does it bring you joy?

D. Herod was stressed because, if Jesus were king, then he couldn't be king.

The people were stressed because Jesus challenged their whole way of life.

E. Sometimes we have the same issue with worship.

We need to get our focus off of ourselves and our selfish ambitions.

Our focus must be directed to God.

F. When we bow to God as the wisemen did we are acknowledging Jesus as our king.

That is where the joy comes from!

III. A HEART THAT IS RIGHT FOR WORSHIP KNOWS JESUS PERSONALLY.

A. The wisemen wanted to know Jesus.

They wanted to meet him personally.

They didn't send a representative.

B. True worship begins with a relationship.

God gave His Son for you.

If you don't have a personal relationship with Christ:

a. Ask Him to come into your heart right now.

b. Begin worshipping Him with all your heart!

John 14:6