



November 30, 2014

When Men Encounter a King---Matthew 2:1-12

Introduction

A person cannot live without the element of hope. Christmas is a time to reflect on the hope we find in the Messiah prophesied by Micah. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." (Micah 5:2) In a world complicated because of sin, Jesus provided hope for mankind.

Discussion Questions

1. The Magi (wise men) were seeking to find the newborn king of the Jews (Matthew 2:2). What important or well-known people have you personally met? Who are some important or well-known people you would like to meet? How did this experience make you feel?
2. When the wise men saw the star they were overjoyed. They bowed down and worshiped the Christ child (Matthew 2:10-11). David stated we all are on a spiritual journey. What was your "star" experience? Have you had a definitive "star" moment where you connected with God? Why does God give us "star" experiences/events?
3. Christmas is for the...Seekers, Starters, Returners, and Convincers. Presently, which one do you most identify?
4. David mentioned that we are all "hard-wired" for hope. Do you agree or disagree? What experiences have you encountered that would make you feel this way?
5. There are two ways hope is expressed: Hope for something and hope for someone. Explain what you feel is the difference between the two. Have you been in a situation where hope has diluted anxiety, fear, or anger in your life?
6. Hope = Certainty "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11) David stated that hope is sparked by the past, gives us joy in the present, and offers us certainty in our future. How have you experienced each of these in your own life?

Conclusion

"Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken." Psalm 62:5-6