



December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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

### Introduction

Life became very complicated for the Magi in their endeavors to follow the star, seeking to worship the true King of Kings. They encountered Herod, a paranoid king in their search. As followers of Christ we face obstacles also; doubts, cynical people, strenuous relationships, fast pace of life, fears, anxieties, and many more. When the Magi (scholars) bowed down and worshiped the true KING they experienced PEACE in the midst of their complications.

### Discussion Questions

1. What obstacles have you faced? What obstacles do you presently face in your spiritual journey? Being confronted with these obstacles, have you ever experienced a lack of peace and what was your response?

2. Peace is not just the absence of conflict, but it's contentment (possessing unflinching strength in our lives). What is the difference in being "content with your life", and finding "true contentment that God provides"?

3. David shared five secrets to contentment that relates to Philippians 4:4-9.

- Sense that God is near
- Stop promoting your worry
- Shape your worries into prayer
- Start praising God
- Saturate your mind with God's perspective

How important is it that we follow the thought process found in Philippians 4:4-9 and the five secrets to contentment? Which of these seem most challenging to you? Which of these comes most naturally for you? Which of these do you need to focus on in the coming year?

4. David shared five different kinds of prayer; a hit and run prayer, a set time of prayer, a season of prayer, a banner or blanket of prayer, and anointing prayer (call the elders). Share an experience in reference to these different kinds of prayers. How did it remove your worries and bring about peace?

5. When you saturate your mind with God's perspective, what does that look like? Have you experienced a shift in your worry and anxiety when you chose to think on the faithfulness of God in your life?

### Conclusion

We have this promise and confidence in God to experience PEACE. "The Lord your God will go ahead of you. I will never fail you or forsake you." Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6