

Week 4: Responding to the King

Series: Christmas: The Whole Story

Key Verses: Matthew 2:1–12; Luke 2:25–35

Speaker: Dr. Justin Hardcastle

Big Idea: The Magi traveled for months. Simeon waited for decades. But both responded in worship when they finally saw the promised Savior. Their stories remind us that Jesus is not just meant to be admired, He’s meant to be worshipped, obeyed, and adored. This week’s message helps us reflect: How will we respond?

Read: Matthew 2:1-8 — When they saw a new star, something extraordinary, they recognized it as a sign.

OUR RESPONSE TO JESUS _____ OUR HEARTS

- Herod saw the news of a “new king” as a threat.
- Herod’s concern was not worship, but self-preservation.
- When we encounter Jesus, we have a choice every day: respond with faith or respond with fear, curiosity or indifference, worship or self-preservation.

Read: Matthew 2:9–12 — When the Magi finally arrived and saw the child Jesus, they didn’t just stand in awe, they worshiped Him.

FOLLOWERS OF JESUS _____ THEIR GIFTS

- Worship is never passive.
- Worship involves an offering... giving our time, our talents, our resources, and ultimately, our lives.
- Like the Magi, we are called to bring our very best, even when it costs us something.
- The whole story of Christmas reminds us: That the birth of Jesus moves us to respond by giving our very best in our daily lives.

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Read: Luke 2:25-35 — The Magi were not the only ones in the story who responded to Jesus’ birth in a way that honored God. Imagine the years Simeon spent in anticipation, decades of faithful service, prayer, and hope.

GOD’S PEOPLE _____ WITH PATIENCE AND FAITHFULNESS

- Simeon’s response was immediate.
- Worship isn’t only about bold action; It can also be about quietly, faithfully waiting and recognizing God’s work when He moves.
- **His life, His death, His resurrection:** Everything about Jesus was God’s plan to rescue humanity from sin, brokenness, and separation from Him.
- Notice the difference in the story of the Magi and Simeon.
 - The Magi responded with action, leaving home, following a star, and presenting gifts.
 - Simeon responded with patient recognition, faithfully waiting for God’s promise to unfold.

MY RESPONSE

1. What does it mean for you to give your “very best” to Jesus this Christmas, not just gifts, but your time, choices, and devotion?
2. Simeon called Jesus “salvation.” How does recognizing Jesus as your personal Savior change the way you live and worship?
3. What fears, distractions, or comforts might be holding you back from fully responding to Jesus?
4. How can you practically act on your faith this week in a way that demonstrates worship, obedience, and surrender to Jesus?

What Is God Speaking to me today?:

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