Introduction

When it comes to the birth of Jesus, people have very different reactions.

I. Some are troubled by the birth of Jesus. Verses 1-3

“When King Herod heard this he was disturbed and all Jerusalem with him.”

- He was an Idumean – from the line of Esau.
- Appointed King of Judea and Samaria by Rome in 40 B.C.
- Known for his political savvy.
- Known for his remarkable architecture.
- He was ruthless.

So it is not surprising that he would view this news about the birth of a king as a threat.

There are people today who want no part of the birth of Jesus either.

II. Some are indifferent to the birth of Jesus. Verses 4-6

Herod inquired where the Christ was to be born.

The religious leaders gave him the right answer – in Bethlehem of Judea, just 5 miles south of Jerusalem.

But they refused to go and see for themselves.

Why didn’t they go? Weren’t they curious at all?

There are many people who are indifferent to the birth of Christ.

Every Christmas, there are people who celebrate the holiday and never make the connection that Jesus is the reason for the season.

III. Some worship Jesus as the newborn king. Verses 10-11

Who were the Wise Men?
They were said to be three in number because of the gifts they brought. Others thought they represented the three families of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

They were given the names Caspar, Balthazar and Melchior in the 6th century.

They were not kings, but king makers – advisors and counselors to kings.

We believe they were part of an Eastern priestly class associated with the Medes and Persians.

The interesting thing we see in Scripture is that Daniel was appointed head over all the Wise Men in Babylon. Daniel 2:48

Because of that connection, it is very likely that these wise men were familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures.

What we do know from the Scriptures is these wise men believed that a great king had been born in Israel and they came to worship him.

On coming to the house, they bowed down and worshipped him. They gave him their gifts of gold, incense and myrrh.

Warned by God, they returned to their country by another route. They were changed men.

Conclusion

God wants all of us to come into a relationship with his Son – to bow down in worship and give him our life and our gifts.

What will your response be?