

Word Notes Sunday 11/01/15 Roy Wheeler – Wise Men Seek Jesus

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Texts: Matt 2:1-12

They understood the signs of the times. God wants his priesthood to be aware of the signs of the times eg increase of terror, weird weather etc before the Lord returns

Wise men receive and act on Gods word no matter in what package it comes. God's next steps came from a murderous king, Herod. The religious leaders knew God's word but didn't recognise signs of fulfillment. True faith is accompanied by action.

When wise men saw sign of Christ's presence they rejoiced. Psalm 100 states that joy and thankfulness are the way into God's presence. A characterization of church should be joy and if he is at home we should see evidence of Spiritual gifts which will be a witness to unbelievers 1 Cor 14:22-25

Wise men entered the house, not staying rejoicing in the courtyard. In the house was a new born baby, all their focus was on Jesus, God with us. This should be our focus as a church.

When they saw Jesus, something changed. An encounter changes things, they left excitement behind and bowed down and worshipped and gave their gifts. They were kingly gifts, incense for a priest, myrrh pointing to his death. When we see God everything changes. (e.g. Isaiah 6, Simeon in his old age and so on). Your purpose and priority changes when you see Jesus. On meeting Jesus they humbled themselves (Think of a royal progress, people cheer, but when have an audience you bow down) Most common hebrew word for worship is *shachah* to bow down, make yourself low Worship is costly. What do I treasure that I do not want to offer up? Listen to what God wants in worship and give it to him. The wise men opened their gifts, we should open ourselves to what God wants.

Two dimensions of true worship- one refers to height of our Lord, as sovereign of the universe.

Can also experience the depth of God's love- He comes close and becomes our lover. *Proscuneo* gk, another word for worship but also contains the idea of kissing or with the joy that a dog has when greeting its master. It means to approach with tenderness.

Think of woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair, she was not ashamed to show her love in public. Go to the place of intimacy. Don't settle for less than what God intends you to enjoy. Don't go back to letting the high priest do it all for you.

The Magi's priority was the pursuit of Jesus, when with him they fell down and worshipped. After meeting with Jesus they were different and left changed people.

Learn from the wise men, enter in fully to the activity and focus of the house, don't be a spectator. Don't hold back in the outer court but push in, connect with God.

Application (Lead discussions around these points, try to get contributions from all members, this promotes openness and inspires spiritual growth)

How would you summarise Roy's main point?

What were the new insights for you on the passage?

Are there things that you just cannot do in worship? Why?

What is the area in your life that God spoke to you most about?

Is there a struggle that has surfaced that you need to take to God?

How can we support each other in this?

(Spend some time praying with one another.)

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Find a place this week that you can spend quality time with Jesus. Pray for our town and get a slice of God's heart for Newmarket.