



# **PATHFINDERS**

Leading this generation into true manhood!!

**Pathfinders are Wise!**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

**Men's Breakfast**

**Sermon given on December 17, 2022**



**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# Pathfinders are Wise!

***Matthew 2:1-12***

## Opening Comments

- Today we continue the series: **PATHFINDERS: Leading this generation into true manhood!**
- Turn in your Bibles to **Matthew 2**
- This morning, we will be talking about something that is seriously lacking in our culture: wisdom
- We had a glaring example of that recently when our anti-gun government released the convicted arms dealer, the ‘Merchant of Death’, who sold weapons used to kill Americans, in a prisoner exchange for a woman who was convicted of bringing drugs into Russia – that doesn’t sound like a good trade
- What is wisdom? Why is it important, especially for men to be wise?
- First, let’s start with a definition

**Wisdom: the quality or state of being wise; knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action; sagacity, discernment, or insight.**

- Wisdom is more than just possessing knowledge **Chuck Smith**  
**Knowledge is knowing that a black cat-sized animal with white stripes down its back is a skunk. Wisdom is staying away from it.**
- Wisdom is knowing what is true and right and then applying that knowledge in right actions
- We live in a time when knowledge is growing faster than people can keep track of it
- But it is also a time when wisdom seems to be being discarded for delusion and fantasy
- There are some people who are saying and might even believe that men can give birth to babies
- Some are saying that just believing you are a gender other than the one you were born as magically makes you a different gender
- And they are not satisfied to keep their delusion to themselves
- That is what the ‘preferred pronoun’ thing is all about
- Anyone who identifies themselves with their preferred pronouns or asks you what yours are is asking you to join them in their delusion

- It might be politically correct to go along with them, but it is not wise
- This morning we will look at a familiar account of some wise men and see what it says for us today
- **Matthew 2:1-2**
- These ‘wise men’ are fascinating
- We can’t know with absolute certainty who these men were or where they came from, other than from the East
- These types of men were well studied, especially in the area of astrology and prophetic writings
- It is possible these were Jews who had been sent to Babylon at the time of the exile and chose not to return
- They would have access to the writings of the Hebrew prophets, like **Numbers 24:17a**

**I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel...**

- This is a prophecy about the coming Messiah
- Something about this star convinced these men to make the dangerous journey from the East to Jerusalem, maybe as much as 1,000 miles on camels
- They believed the prophecy was true and that this star fulfilled the prophecy
- They also believed something else – they believed that this newborn King was worthy of worship
- They believed that the Star was not leading them to a simple king, but to a Divine King – the Messiah, God in the flesh
- That is remarkable for men who are coming from such a great distance from where these events are taking place
- So, we can draw a few applications from that
- First, God’s Word is the source of wisdom
- Second, belief in God’s Word leads to wisdom
- Third, wisdom that is based in God’s Word leads to Jesus
- Men, we were created to lead those in our circles
- And not just lead them, but lead them to Jesus
- We have two choices in this matter – we lead with the wisdom of the world, or we lead with the wisdom of the Word

- The world's wisdom says that if there are any inequities in any system, that it is because racism or sexism or some other 'ism'
- Inequities = evil, and usually intentional evil
- The problem is that it usually isn't true
- This week I heard of a 'scientific study' into the inequities during Shark Week on the Discovery Channel
- It was discovered that almost all of the people doing shark research or shark related shows are men, and specifically white heterosexual men
- They even found inequity in the names of those men – a large percentage of them were named Mike
- Now, if you are like me, you hear that and shake your head – foolishness – silly
- But don't be surprised if men wearing dresses are hosting shark shows during the next Shark Week
- Guys, if we want to lead those God has entrusted into our care, we must know God's Word, believe God's Word, and apply God's Word to the reality of the world around us
- So, the wise men show up to looking for the King they came to worship
- **Matthew 2:3**
- Herod was the king at this time
- He was paranoid and insecure
- This new King threatened his power and position
- And we will see later that he will try to do something about the new king
- The world is threatened by Jesus
- If the ruling elite had their way, they would eliminate religious liberty
- Nothing threatens evil governments like people who put their faith in Jesus Christ because they cannot be controlled and bent to their evil will
- It is wiser to put your trust in God who sets up and pulls down governments than to trust in a government that is trying to remove God from the culture
- It is the next group that weirds me out the most

- **Matthew 2:4-6**

- It is clear the wise men are looking for the Christ because that is what Herod asks the religious leaders about
- The religious leaders quote Micah 5:2 and say the Messiah, the Christ, would be born in Bethlehem
- Herod heard the news of the birth of the Messiah and was troubled
- The religious leaders who had the knowledge of the Christ heard the same thing from the wise men and were apathetic
- The wise men travel a great distance to worship the newborn King because they believe the Words of God and the chief priests and scribes who are the religious leaders of Israel don't even investigate to see if it is true
- When Jesus started His public ministry, these same men resisted Him because He upset the status quo
- They only cared about others to the degree that it benefited them
- Apathy in the life of a spiritual leader or any leader is a great sin
- True godly wisdom causes one to care, especially about the things and people God cares about
- It is mature godly wisdom that causes one to care more for the needs of others than for themselves
- But their true needs, not the perverse sexual desires being pushed by the gender ideology cults
- Herod wants to find this King

- **Matthew 2:7-8**

- Herod has no intention of worshipping Jesus
- It would be no great thing for Herod to murder the Child
- We know this because of what he did after the wise men were gone

**Matthew 2:16**

**Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.**

- A wise man does not trust the government with the precious things of God's kingdom – it cannot be trusted
- The wise men leave Herod and then comes a miracle

- **Matthew 2:9-10**

- This was no star as we know them
- It was no star in a galaxy far, far away
- We can't say with certainty what it was, but it moved in the sky leading the wise men to the home where Jesus was
- In a way this is symbolic of following the leading of the Holy Spirit

- **Matthew 2:11**

- The wise men were searching for the Christ, and they kept searching until they found Him
- Once they found Him, they worshipped Him
- Even as a baby, Jesus was worthy of worship
- As an act of worship, they presented gifts to the God Child
- The gold is symbolic of His royalty – the frankincense points to His High Priestly role – the myrrh was used to prepare bodies after death, reminding us of His sacrifice for us all

- Kevin sent me this quote from **Charles Spurgeon**

**Those who look for Jesus will see Him; those who truly see Him will worship Him; those who worship Him will consecrate their substance to Him.**

- The wise men came to worship Jesus
- And it cost them a lot to do it
- They put their lives on hold and took a long dangerous journey
- And when they found Him, they gave Him very valuable gifts
- What are you willing to give up to worship Jesus like these wise men did?

- Jesus helped summarize that for us **Matthew 16:24-26**

**Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"**

- There is no greater wisdom than seeking Jesus with your whole being
- The wise men give us one more example of wisdom before they disappear into history

- **Matthew 2:12**

- God communicates in many ways

- He speaks to us through His Word, through His Spirit, through His people, through the circumstances of life, and supernaturally, like here, in dreams and visions
- But to hear God, there are a few things that must be true in your life
- First, you must know God by faith through His Word and by His Spirit
- Second, you must be listening for His voice – you might not hear Him if you are not choosing to listen
- Third, you must be willing to obey Him in whatever He tells you to do
- The world needs men with godly, Bible-based wisdom
- How to exercise godly wisdom covers every facet of your life
- As a simple overview – Know God’s Word – believe God’s Word – obey God’s Word
- As we are in the Christmas season – follow the example of the wise men from the East
- They sought out the Messiah – Savior
- If you are a believer – rejoice in the birth of Jesus – and then take every opportunity to point people to His birth
- It might be as simple as wishing someone a Merry Christmas
- The wise men worshipped Jesus - lead your family, friends, and church in rejoicing in the birth of Jesus, Savior, God in the flesh
- Encourage them to come and worship with us
- The wise men gave gifts to Christ – be generous during the Christmas season – with people and with the church
- Wise men still seek Him and men who seek Him become wise
- Pathfinders are Wise!
- **Let’s pray!**