Pastor Dave Teixeira
September 27, 2009
Matthew 2:1-12

Please use the space below to take notes on today's message:

Take It Homework

We encourage you to not only do these exercises on your own, but also with a group of friends, co-workers, neighbors, small group or family members.

Have you ever been grouped—put into a group of other people based on a similarity you have. Well, in our passage today, Matthew lays out three groups of people who respond to Christ in three different ways. I think he does this right at the beginning of his Gospel as a challenge to his readers. He wants there to be NO blurring of the lines. "What group are you in?" is something he wants us to ask ourselves as we read.

First, there's Herod. He is scared of Jesus—threatened by Him and blatantly opposed to all He represents.

- Do you know anyone like Herod? Do you know someone who is constantly striving to protect, preserve and expand his or her own privilege and power?
- Do you ever feel those tendencies in yourself? (Come on, look deep!)

Next there is "all Jerusalem" and "all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law." They seem completely ambivalent, unaware and unconcerned about Jesus. They should have been the people MOST concerned and focused on Him. Yet He arrives right under their noses, and they don't even seek, notice or acknowledge Him.

- Do you know anyone like that? Do you know anyone who should know about Jesus—that should be passionate, yielded and following Him faithfully, but they aren't?
- (Sorry, it's that time again!) How about you? How are you like that? How are you oblivious to Jesus and where He's showing up in the world?

Finally, Matthew writes about the "Magi," the God Seekers, the King Finders. They went to great lengths to search for, find and worship Jesus. They weren't who you'd expect, but they came and worshipped.

- Who do you know who seeks God like that? Who is just relentless in their pursuit of Christ? His will? His cause? His life?
- How 'bout you? How or in what way is your life like the Magi?
- Now, let's get painfully specific. If Herod = 1; Jerusalem = 5 and the Magi = 10, where are you on the spectrum? Why?

EXTRA CREDIT: I read an article this week. In it, two questions were asked that I think will help you move toward the Magi:

- What in your life stirs your affections for Jesus Christ?
- What robs you of those affections?