

What was the point of the message on Sunday? If for some reason you missed it,

## ***Here's The Point ...***

“True Joy is in Seeking the True Jesus.”

### ***1. Pursuing the False god of Power Causes Fear and Ends in Anger***

The first type of person we see in Matthew 2:1-12, believes that joy is found in pursuing power and obtaining control over every aspect of his or her life. This person believes that true freedom and fulfillment is in being his or her own master and breaking free of any limits to power and authority. Joy for them is always trying to be in control. This type of person is seen in the character of King Herod. So, when Herod heard that a child had been “born” King of the Jews, it caused him great fear. It says, “He was troubled” (v.3). This is how the idols in our hearts reveal themselves, by our anxieties and fears. Behind everything we worship, behind everything we give our lives to, is the fear that, without it, life would no longer be worth living. And when Herod heard that he was tricked by the wise men, it says, “he became furious” (v.16). Fearful and furious. These are the two characteristics of people pursuing power and control, believing it will bring them joy, it only causes fear and ends in anger.

### ***2. Pursuing the False god of Moralism Causes Pride and Ends in Apathy***

The second type of person we see in the narrative, believes that joy is found in pursuing the moral lifestyle and always having the right answers. Joy for this person is always being right in the eyes of others. This type of person is seen in the character of the chief priests and scribes. In Herod's panic to maintain control, he assembled all the “religious” types. They gave Herod the right answer of where the Christ was to be born, but sadly we find no response to that truth. Unlike Herod, whose response was fear and anger to the news of Christ, the religious moralists responded in apathy. In pride, the moralist always justifies his apathy to Christ by his seemingly right behavior and right answers. Pride and apathy. These are the two characteristics of people who pursue the false god of moralism.

### ***3. Pursuing the True God in Christ Causes Joy and Ends in Adoration***

The third type of person we see believes that joy is found in pursuing the true God in Christ. This person believes that true joy is in seeking the true Jesus. Joy for this person, unlike Herod, is in surrendering their rights to the authority of Christ, and unlike the religious rulers, surrendering their vain attempts at always being right to the perfect work of Christ. This person understands that freedom and fulfillment is not in being your own master but in serving the right master. This type of person is seen in the character of the wise men. And when they came to Jesus, what was their response? It says, “They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy ... and they fell down and worshipped Him” (V.10-11). The wise men's gifts represented that they were adoring the true Jesus. Gold because Jesus is King. Frankincense because Jesus is God. And myrrh because Jesus is Savior. Joy and Adoration. These are the two characteristics of people who pursue the true God in Christ. The King who came to rule *over* us. The God who came to be *with* us. And the Savior who came to die *for* us.