

12-18-22 Facilitator – Bethlehem, The Humble Place Matt. 2:1-13, Tim Rice

1. **Launchers:** What are you seeking? What does that reveal about you?
2. **Worship God for His gifts of His Creation and His Son then Open Your Treasures and GIVE!**

Matthew 2:10-11 TimO's edits – I love Gods works of Creation and Saving intertwined and on display.

***Work of Creation: "When they (the wise men) saw the star"**

***Response to Creation: "They rejoiced exceedingly with Great Joy"**

***Work of Salvation: "When they saw the child"**

Response to our Savior: "They fell down and worshiped Him"

Gifts of God to us: "Then opening their (the wise men) gifts"

Holy Spirit prompting us to give as God gives: "They offered Him Gifts"

***Blue Denotes the work of Our Heavenly Father**

***Green Denotes Holy Spirit's Work**

***Red Denotes the work of Jesus**

3. **Sermon Reflection:**

THE HUMBLE PLACE

- What can we learn by the contrast of those who seek Jesus?
- How can we be like Herod or the priests resenting his reign?
- How can we be like the magi "rejoicing exceedingly with great joy" and "falling down and worshipping Him?"

THE DEATH OF ARROGANCE

- What is God's guarantee vs. evil?

THE HUMBLE PATH

- What should we expect following our leader?
- How do you live in fear because of the threat of loss?
- How does Jesus and all he brings satisfy your deepest fears and greatest longings?

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...**

1. Worship the LORD, God Almighty for His wisdom and goodness. Praise Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for His plan to save us through such a stunning plan of suffering and yet victory over evil.
2. How have you sought to build your own kingdom and neglected Jesus, the true King? Confess to Jesus your rebellion, asking Him to forgive you and have mercy to change your heart to truly love Him.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His work to save us, even as He was required to suffer. Thank Him for atoning for our guilt by His death, and being raised to conquer all evil, even death and hell.
4. Who do you know that is indifferent to Jesus and His kingdom? Pray for them asking the Lord to help them even as He sent something brilliant and stunning into view for the wise men.
5. Read again Isaiah 53:4-6, 12. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and faithfulness. Pray that He would grow your confidence that He is not undone by suffering, but rather accomplished our redemption through it.

5. **Mission: Reflections 2022 / Anticipations 2023 – 5 questions for the Holidays**

1. How has God shown Himself great to you this past year? Or why do you faith/believe more cuz of the gift of God to you of 2022?
2. What character quality is the most critical for you to develop in the year 2023?
3. What spiritual discipline (Examples: Bible reading, meditation, Family Worship, Evangelism, Prayer, Thanksgiving) is most critical for you to master or be mastered by in the year 2023?
4. What personal habit, practice or character deficiency is the greatest threat to your life and ministry?
5. Name 5 people that you are believing the Gospel before the believe or believing the Gospel for them as they mature for the year 2023.