



New Hampton Community Church
Message Notes ~ Sunday December 21, 2025

“Responding to the King”

“Christmas: the Whole Story” Week 4

Isaiah 9:6-7

*“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us.
The government will rest on his shoulders.
And he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His government and its peace will never end.”*

Matthew 2:1-8

“Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ² “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

³ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:

*⁶ ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,
for a ruler will come from you
who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’ ”*

⁷ Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸ Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

➤ **Response to _____, reveals the _____**

Matthew 2:9-12

“After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.”

➤ **Followers of Jesus, _____**

Luke 2:25-35

At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him ²⁶ and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, ²⁸ Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

*²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace,
as you have promised.*

³⁰ I have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared for all people.

*³² He is a light to reveal God to the nations,
and he is the glory of your people Israel!”*

³³ Jesus’ parents were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby’s mother, “This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. ³⁵ As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul.”

➤ **Followers, learn to respond with _____ and _____**

Questions to Ponder

1. How do you personally relate to the Magi’s journey or Simeon’s patient waiting? Which one reflects your current walk with Jesus?
2. What will it look like for you to give your “very best” to Jesus this Christmas? How will this be reflected in your choices, time and devotion?
3. Simeon called Jesus “salvation.” How does recognizing Jesus as your personal Savior change the way you live and worship?
4. What fears, distractions, or comforts might be holding you back from fully responding to Jesus?
5. How can you practically act on your faith this week in a way that demonstrates worship, obedience, and surrender to Jesus?