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| _Pic1 | _Pic2 | **Sermon Title: *“Wise Men Still Seek Him”* Scripture: Matthew 2:1-23**  Pastor Chris Fritz  Sunday, December 24, 2017 |

**Introduction**

***Matthew 2:1-23 -***

**I. How to Miss Christmas in Three Easy Steps**

**Step #1 - Ignore your Bible... or at least treat it like a boring book of unimportant facts. Prophecy 1: *Matthew 2:5 -***

Note: He is to be born in Bethlehem and He will be wonderful, like a Shepherd to His people.

**Prophecy 2: *Matthew 2:14-15 -***

***Hosea 11:1 - “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My Son."***

Note: God would protect His Son, delight in His Son, and bring His beloved Son safely out of Egypt, into the Promised Land, all to fulfill His gracious plan of redemption.

**Prophecy 3: *Matthew 2:16-18 -***

***Jeremiah 31:15-17 - “Thus says the Lord: ‘A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children because they are no more.’ Thus says the Lord: ‘Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the Lord, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is hope for your future, declares the Lord, and your children shall come back to their own country.’”***

***Jeremiah 31:3 - “I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued My faithfulness to you.”***

***Psalm 30:5 - “Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.”***

Note: The plan of God can never be stopped. The “Herods” of the world will die and pass away, but Christ will be victorious and His people will be redeemed and comforted.

***Revelation 21:4 - “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”***

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**Prophecy 4: *Matthew 2:23 -***

***John 1:46 - “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (John 1:46)***

***Isaiah 53:3 - “He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.”***

***Jeremiah 23:5-6 - “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days, Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”***

Note: Jesus, the humble, despised, rejected Nazarene, is our righteousness.

**Step #2 - Flood your life with idols. *Matthew 2:3 -***

Note: The word translated as “troubled” means to be shaken, to be thrown into panic.

***Matthew 11:28-30 - “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”***

***Luke 9:23-25 - “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?”***

**Step #3 - Remain busy, proud, and self-sufficient.**

***“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”***

***“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”***

***“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” (Matthew 5:3, 4, 6)***

Step #1 - Ignore your Bible.

Step #2 - Flood your life with idols.

Step #3 - Remain busy, proud, and self-sufficient.

Or be like the WisemenÉ

- Respond to the revelation God gives you.

- Diligently seek after Christ.

- Recognize the Deity and Kingship of Jesus.

- Worship Him as the true Messiah.

- Give yourself to Him.

- Honor Him as worthy of your time, worship, and treasure.