

Sermon Series: When God Enters

12/28/25 “A Separating,” Matthew 2:1-16, MEV

INTRODUCTION *Ever wonder why it is so hard for people to accept Jesus as Lord & Savior? He’s so loving, kind, forgiving...*

MAIN IDEA: Jesus divides people. Why? Because of the way they respond to Him. Here are five responses represented here.

I. First, some seek Him to worship Him (wise men, 1-2)

Wise men (*magi*): magician, astrologer; not a follower of Yahweh

A. motivated by an act of God (*we have seen His star*)

John 6:44, MEV: No one can come to Me unless the Father who has sent Me draws him.

1. willing to invest time, resources, ask for help
2. sometimes disrupting others (3)

B. believing what God has said: “*Where is the king of the Jews born?*” (*not if*)

Numbers 24:17, MEV: I will see him, but not now; I will behold him, but not near; a star will come out of Jacob, and a scepter will rise out of Israel [*Balaam’s prophecy*]

C. seeking His Presence

1. rejoice in Him when they find Him
2. humble themselves before Him...*bow before Him*
3. Sacrifice for Him (*gold, frankincense, myrrh*)

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, some are fearful because of Him (3)

Trouble: to strike one’s spirit with fear, dread (*Thayer*)

A. troubled by news about Him... “*What does it mean?*”
“*How will this affect me?*”...*spouses*

B. don’t seek Him

C. might be affected by those who are hostile to Jesus

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Third, some are indifferent to Him (4-6)

A. might know about Him but don’t know Him

B. might be able give information about Him to others

C. will not seek Him themselves

D. might later become hostile to Him or follow Him

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. Fourth, some are antagonistic toward Him (16-18)

NOTE: Herod the Great...builder, murderer—3 sons, wife, others

A. self-seeking

B. view Jesus as a threat to them...*their power, their position*

C. deceptive

D. willing to use others

E. willing to persecute any to stop Him

NOTE: God doesn’t protect everyone. Children killed. Jesus protected because Joseph & Mary obeyed God’s warning.

ILLUSTRATION:

V. Finally, some have intimacy with Him (11, 13-15)

A. first, answer His call

B. second, serve Him in any way possible

C. finally, have intimacy with Him & continue to serve Him

1. He speaks with them

2. He leads them

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: