

Overcomers: Overcoming Self-Centeredness

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – December 13, 2020

Matthew 2:1-12

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel." 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

To overcome self-centeredness we must...

1. PASSIONATELY PURSUE JESUS

Matthew 2:1-2

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea... Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

To overcome self-centeredness we must...

2. JOYFULLY BOW DOWN AND WORSHIP HIM

Matthew 2:2b

"... We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:10

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

Matthew 2:11a

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

Matthew 28:17

When [the disciples] saw [the resurrected Jesus], they worshiped him...

To overcome self-centeredness we must...

3. FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE AND SACRIFICIALLY GIVE

Matthew 2:11b

Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

CONCLUSION

Philippians 2:3-8

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!