

# Outline

## Intro:

### I. \_\_\_\_\_ Pursuit - \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 2:1 (NASB) <sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

### II. \_\_\_\_\_ Pursuit – \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 2:4 (NASB) <sup>4</sup> Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.



## Outline (continued)

### III. \_\_\_\_\_ Pursuit – \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 2:1 (NASB) <sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

Matthew 2:2 (NASB) <sup>2</sup> "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

Matthew 2:9 (NASB) <sup>9</sup> After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was.



## Outline (continued)

### Conclusion:

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB) <sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

Jeremiah 29:13 (NASB) <sup>13</sup> 'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.



## Outline (continued)

Matthew 22:37-39 (NASB) <sup>37</sup> And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' <sup>38</sup> "This is the great and foremost commandment. <sup>39</sup> "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'



Message slides:

# God's Christmas Gifts

Pursuit

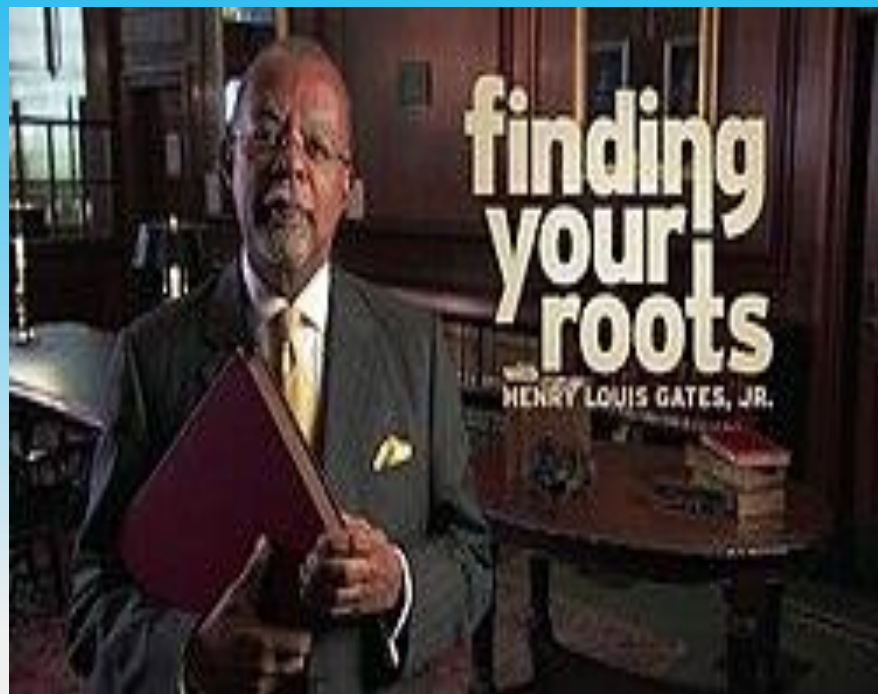
Matthew 2:1-9 (NASB)



# Pursuit

Matthew 2:1-9 (NASB)





# I. No-Hearted Pursuit





<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

Matthew 2:1 (NASB)



2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

Matthew 2:2 (NASB)



<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Matthew 2:3 (NASB)



4 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

Matthew 2:4 (NASB)



<sup>5</sup> They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

Matthew 2:5 (NASB)



6 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'"

Matthew 2:6 (NASB)



7 Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared.

Matthew 2:7 (NASB)



<sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him."

Matthew 2:8 (NASB)





I. No-Hearted Pursuit

II. Half-Hearted Pursuit



4 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

Matthew 2:4 (NASB)



<sup>5</sup> They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

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6 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'"

Matthew 2:6 (NASB)



- I. No-Hearted Pursuit
- II. Half-Hearted Pursuit
- III. Whole-Hearted Pursuit



<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

Matthew 2:1 (NASB)



2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

Matthew 2:2 (NASB)



9 After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was.

Matthew 2:9 (NASB)





I. No-Hearted Pursuit

II. Half-Hearted Pursuit

III. Whole-Hearted Pursuit

**Jeremiah 29:13 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup> 'You will seek Me and find Me  
when you search for Me with all your heart.



## Questions

1. What is your favorite tradition when it comes to Christmas?
2. Who are three "Magi" or wise men or women you look to for advice?
3. Why was it important for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem? (see Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:5-6)

Micah 5:2 (NASB) <sup>2</sup> "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."



## Questions (continued)

4. What are your impressions about Herod the Great from the passage? From the message on Sunday?
5. What do you think were the reasons why the religious leaders were so uninterested in the star, the magi and the infant King to be born who was to be the Messiah? What are some of the potentially dangerous things about being “religious” only half-hearted?
6. Do you know anyone who “goes through the motions” when it comes to following Jesus? What do the Scriptures say about this? (See Matthew 7:13-23; Luke 9:23-25; Revelation 3:14-22)



## Questions (continued)

7. Since the *Magi* were pagan astrologers, why would they leave everything in order to follow that star?
8. In your journey toward God, how are you like the *Magi*? Unlike them? Have you had to leave anything to follow Jesus?
9. Why does it seem so rare to see someone on “fire” for the Lord, zealous and hungry for Him with a passion, and totally sold-out to Him? What are some of the reasons for this?



## Questions (continued)

10. What are some of the ways in which we can be “whole-heartedly” passionate for Jesus?  
What does that person look like?

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB) <sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
And do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all your  
ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths  
straight.

Jeremiah 29:13 (NASB) <sup>13</sup> 'You will seek Me and find Me  
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## Questions (continued)

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