

The Sermon Connection

Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

Volume 3 Issue 52



The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS? What The Wise Men Knew Sermon by Bob Ross December 24, 2017

Over the past 3 weeks, Pastors Bob and Calvin have looked at the question “What Child is This?” through the eyes of those who saw the birth and infancy of Jesus up close and personal. The main point of the series was that each of those who met Jesus as a child had to answer the question that the poet posed. And, not only did they have to answer the question, every human being has to come to their own answer about Jesus.

Pastor Bob started the series by looking at Mary and Joseph. They were obviously the closest to Jesus. He walked us through the passages in Matthew and Luke that tell us about Mary and Joseph. He then used those same passages to show us what Mary and Joseph knew about Jesus. An angel had appeared to both of them on separate occasions to tell them who Jesus was. Finally, Bob looked at how they each responded. Mary responded verbally – “let it be to me according to your word.” Interestingly, Joseph does not utter a word in Scripture, but we can gauge his response with his actions. They both believed the Child was the Messiah.

Calvin looked at the shepherds in Luke 2. He stressed that the angel who appeared to them announced “good news” for “all the people.” The good news is that The Savior has been born – and it is for everyone. It is not an exclusive message. God shows this clearly by choosing the shepherds to be the recipients of the angelic announcement.

Bob finished the series by looking at the Wise Men as Matthew 2:1-12 describes them. He started by walking through the passage and listing out what WE can know about the Wise Men and their quest. The Biblical text combined with other sources provides a lot of detail that we can know. Bob then looked at what the Wise Men knew. That is summarized in verse 2: “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” He pointed out that they knew 3 things: Jesus was born a King, that the star was significant and the He was worthy of worship.

Bob then closed the series by asking what each of us know individually. He pointed out that the Wise Men, Herod, and the Chief Priests and Scribes all had the same information, but that they responded to it differently. The same is true today. Everyone has the same information about Jesus. Everyone has to answer the question “What Child is This?” How have you answered that question?

READING AND REFLECTION:

There are several passages in Matthew and Luke that tell the Christmas story. They are listed below. Take the time to read through each one and write down what you observe. Look up any Old Testament passages that are referenced and study them.

Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew 2:1-12

Luke 1:26-38

Luke 2:1-21

Continue your study by reading about the rest of Jesus' childhood in the early chapters of Matthew and Luke.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

As you have studied the above passages, is there any new perspective that you have about the birth of Jesus?

Do you see any significance in the circumstances of Jesus' birth? Think through what you have learned about His parents, where He was born, who His birth was announced to.

Have you answered the question "What Child is This?" If so, write out your answer as completely as you can and share it with one of your spiritual mentors. If not, take the time to answer the question based on what you know.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

As you gather with your family or small group this week, discuss the birth of Jesus. Talk about Mary and Joseph – what their lives must have been like. Talk about the shepherds and the wise men – contrast them. Also, take the time to study Elizabeth, Zechariah, Simeon and Anna – all had a unique view of "the child."

KEY POINT:

Every human being must answer the question: "What Child is This?"

RESOURCES:

One Year New Testament Bible (available at the information table)