

Sermon Series: The God-Man
Sermon Title: What if...
Sermon Text: Matthew 2:1-12

- What if this took place today? How different would the experience be? What would change about this story of the wise men? What would be lost?

How many of you travel for Christmas? You can depart Cleveland Hopkins airport on Christmas day in the afternoon & be in Florida in time for dinner!

It may be hectic & frustrating to travel in such a way... but consider what the wise men went through in their travels to get to Bethlehem to see Jesus!

- Traveled by animal, not plane. 4-5 months, not 3-4 hrs. Luggage...

If they could have just booked a round trip flight to visit Jesus in Bethlehem, what would they have gained? But what would have been lost?

- What if they had Google Maps?

There would have been no need to follow a star, that they didn't know where it came from or where it was leading them! All they would have needed was that wonderful digital voice saying, "In 500' turn left!"

What would have been gained by this modern advancement for these wise men? And what would have been lost in the story if GPS existed?

- What if they had Live-Streaming?

They could have stayed in bed and watched the play-by-play from Joseph, in real time on their phones, & there would've been no need to make the trip!

An event like this would have had 24/7 coverage! If only it took place today...

- What if they had Zoom?

They could have set up a virtual meeting with Herod, the chief priests, and the scribes... They could have had a face-to-face conversation with Mary & Joseph through their screens... They could have screenshot baby Jesus!

- What if they had Social Media?

They would have had all the pictures, message updates, highlights of Jesus' birth and beginning of life... all on their computer screens/phones/tablets!

Even more reason to stay home! Right??? The luxury of convenience today! Or what about the gifts they brought Jesus? What's the modern day solution?

- What if they had Amazon Prime?

They could've purchased the gifts online & had them shipped to Bethlehem! Again, how convenient today's resources would have been for these wise men! So many benefits... But again, what would have been lost?

How important is "physical presence" for us at Christmas time?

- "I'll Be Home for Christmas" "All I Want for Christmas is You"

The story of the wise men would not be the same, nor have had the same significance & impact, if they had never made the journey to Bethlehem!

There is something about "physical presence" that cannot be replaced!

The same is true for the journey Jesus made from heaven to earth! When He too made the trip to Bethlehem 2000 years ago!

Jesus coming down to us, in actual time & space, born into this world, in an actual city, to human parents, in human form, where he could be visited by Magi... is what makes the gospel truly "good news"! Emmanuel - God w/ us!

- What if Jesus simply invited us to a Google Meet/Zoom call from heaven, and told us that He was just going to take care of things from on His end?
- What if Jesus, from heaven, just gave us status updates on social media and never entered into our actual physical space, in the flesh?
- What if forgiveness, grace, mercy, & love were just delivered to us in an Amazon box at our door, rather than lived out & extended to us relationally?

Jesus, the God-Man, had to inhabit our space, in order to extend to us the greatest gift of all – Himself!

The wise men in return gave of themselves, not just their gifts, but their time, their presence, their sacrifice... all for Him! What about us?

What are we willing to do this Christmas to show Jesus our deep commitment to Him? What conveniences may we need to set aside so that we can give Him our greatest gift this year, ourselves? _____

There is no greater journey traveled than the One Jesus made to be with us, let's give Him the gift of our presence, like the wise men did, no matter the cost!

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