

# Christmas day sermon

## ‘We have come to worship Him’ (Matthew 2:2)

The Wise Men knew exactly who they were looking for and what they should do. They knew that Christ should be worshipped. Today, the great invitation still goes out to come and worship Him.

### 1. **We**

True worshippers are part of a company of all kinds of people from all cultures, united because of what Christ has done for them. Whatever the size of our local church, our presence is a statement that we have come to worship.

### 2. **Have come**

The Wise Men had travelled a long way, from the remains of the Persian Empire. They were probably wealthy and had left comfortable homes for a long and difficult journey - and they may well have been ridiculed. We also have to sacrifice comforts to come and worship: being willing to change our perspective, accepting the loss of dignity and comfort, and perhaps even facing opposition from our families.

The Wise Men did not stumble at the sight of the ordinary house where Mary and Joseph were staying; they denied themselves the dignity of their high office. When worshipping, we must forsake pride and thoughts of status.

### 3. **To worship**

Worship is offering ourselves to Him, casting away idols which include self. It involves holding Him in the highest affection. The Wise Men knew that Jesus deserved worship, even as a baby. It is hard to move beyond self and pour out our hearts to Him. We should be preoccupied with Him and live for Him. Worship involves wanting to understand Him better and know what He wants, applying this in our everyday lives. Herod's 'worship' was destructive: it's important to be thoughtful about how we worship.

### 4. **Him**

We worship God in the flesh, the One who began human life in the womb and eventually died for us. As a baby He needed Mary's care - but He was also sustaining her! As an adult he was not aloof from his community - his involvement in everyday life comes through in the parables. But on the Cross He was alone, cut off even from His Father. Now He is glorified at the Father's right hand, but still remembers what it's like to be human. When He returns we will share in His triumph, and now He should be at the centre of our lives.