

SERMON SERIES: For Unto Us

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Sermon Title

“God For Us”

Introduction

This week we continued a Christmas series titled “For Unto Us”. In Isaiah chapter 9, we are told that Jesus would come as a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. But the first words of that verse tell us, “For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given...” Throughout this series, we are going to lean in and discover together the difference it can make in our lives when we understand how the baby who *came to be with* us became the man who *died for* us. To get started this week, answer this icebreaker question with your group:

- What is your favorite Christmas tradition, and why does it hold special meaning to you?

Seek the Word

Read Matthew 2:1-23 out loud, taking notes on and/or highlighting standout verses and concepts from the text. Then answer these questions as a group.

- Taking a look at the Magi’s journey to find Jesus, what significance do you see in the steps they took towards the savior? How does this “quest” reflect their understanding of who Jesus is?
- What was it about the birth of this baby (Jesus) that caused such concern for Herod and Jerusalem? What parallels do you see between how the world reacted to Jesus then, and how they react to Him now?
- In Matthew 2:11, the Magi worship Jesus and bring Him gifts. What do these actions tell us about their recognition of Jesus’ identity and therefore their response to Him?

Go Deeper

The Herod mentioned in Matthew 2 became known as “Herod the Great” as a way to distinguish his rule from the Herods that followed him. There is an interesting irony in this worldly title being bestowed upon him, because Herod’s biggest issue in Matthew 2 is the reality that he is not really great, and certainly not greater than the Messiah. In our lives, we often attempt to hold on to the control and trust in our “greatness”, instead of surrendering to Christ what is His. We resist, when we should be worshipping. What are the areas of your heart/life that you need to surrender to Jesus as the true and Holy King?

Talk About It

- How has your understanding of worship changed throughout your life? Are there aspects of your worship that you wish were deeper/more authentic? How can you transform your worship of God to be more about surrender than anything else?
- Romans 5:6-8 says, “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” How does this truth impact your view of God’s love and your relationship with Him?
- Looking ahead to the remainder of 2024 (17 days at the time of writing), what are some practical ways you can offer your life as a “living sacrifice” to God, as mentioned in Romans 12:1? How can you expand on those things entering into 2025, and allow God to shape how your next year goes?

Wrap Up

Reminder: The true essence of Christmas is recognizing Jesus as the King who came to be with us and ultimately die for us. Like the Magi in Matthew 2, our response to Jesus should be one of worship and surrender acknowledging his sovereignty over our lives. Embrace the call to offer your life as a living sacrifice, allowing His love and grace to transform you and guide your actions daily.

Challenge: Daily worship can look like many things, but it all has to do with surrender. This week, find a way each day to surrender something to God and use that surrender as daily worship. Pray that your heart is open to God’s sovereignty and lordship, and that your eyes are open to the way the King is moving in your life.

Prayer: Close your time by praying together, thanking God for sending Jesus to be with us and to die for us. Ask for His help in surrendering your lives to Him and for the courage to live out your faith in practical ways. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in true worship and to transform your hearts to reflect Christ’s love and humility.