

Icebreaker

What are your favorite parts of Christmas?

What are your least favorite things about Christmas?

Does Christmas make you cranky?

Overcoming the Chaos

On Sunday, we looked at **Matthew 2:1-14**, the story of the Magi or “Wise Men” coming to visit Jesus. Before reading the passage, what are some key points you remember from how the story is usually told?

Now, read the passage and identify things that are different between the way we tell the story and how it actually is in the Bible.

Even when we get the details of the story right, we tend to focus on side issues rather than the main issue. What do you think Matthew’s main point is?

Throughout this account, Matthew focuses mostly on the fact that Jesus is the new king. Everything about the story revolves around Jesus being a king and that he is the king for Jews and Persians alike, indeed the king for all people. However, we tend to focus on the side issues like the meaning or value of the gifts, the faithfulness of Joseph, the evil of Herod, etc. I think that’s one reason we find ourselves chaotic at Christmas. Something in us believes that we have to put forth a lot of effort at Christmas time because after all, look at the gifts the Magi brought! Look at the effort of Mary and Joseph!

How much of your Christmas chaos comes from trying to meet the expectations of others?

How much of those expectations come from Jesus?

Read **Luke 10:38-42**. When Jesus says, “one thing is needed” what is he talking about? Who is the “needy” person in the story?

On Sunday, I said this story was about one woman who was trying to please Jesus and another who was being pleased by Jesus. Which of the two was doing the “needed” thing?

We ended Sunday with this thought. What does it mean to you?

**Christmas reminds us Jesus came to us,
not the other way around.**

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