

Christmas Eve Service
The Report Is Not The Story
12/24/22
Newport News

Opening

-I want to teach you a phrase to carry with you into 2023

THE REPORT IS NOT THE STORY.

(have them repeat that multiple times)

Introduction

-Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11

-There are lots of theories on the country of origin for the Magi...two prevailing ones are Persia (modern day Iran) or Sheba (modern day Yemen)...regardless, both are incredible journeys and when we look at the time line of visit of the Magi, it very likely took them two years arriving when Jesus was a toddler.

-What were Magi? (from Faith, Work, and Economics)

The group of Magi in question came "from the East." ...They probably served as court advisors, making forecasts and predictions for their royal patrons based on their study of the stars, about which they were quite knowledgeable. Magi often wandered from court to court, and it was not unusual for them to cover great distances in order to attend the birth or crowning of a king, paying their respects and offering gifts. It is not surprising, therefore, that Matthew would mention them as validation of Jesus' kingship, or that Herod would regard their arrival as a very serious matter.

Daniel (much we don't know, their origin is more certain...)

- taken into captivity in 605 BC
- he lived in captivity of 70 years...
- Daniel 5:11 (he was the head Magi!!!)
- 2 Timothy 2:2
- Hebrews 12:1 (Imagine Daniel in Heaven watching...)

Both Daniel and others like Jeremiah carried with them the belief that God would one day send to the world a Savior...passed down from generation to generation for over 500 years!!!!

(preach on what “the report” was in 605 BC)

(preach on “the story” that God was writing...)

(preach on ... the story tomorrow can require hardships today)

A Now Story

(work through “the report” of Joseph and Mary...)

- Your child struggling in school...
- Your marriage is failing...
- Your finances are faltering...
- Your job is floundering...
- Your health is crumbling...
- Your adult child is choosing a path...

“THE REPORT IS NOT THE STORY!” (future story or a now story)

The devil is always at work trying to convince you that your report sets the narrative of your story...

Not Denial

-(talk about sometimes we have to do practical things because of the report...work through some mentioned, now and Bible)

Report/Story

-(talk about the day of Jesus’ death...Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus coming back after laying Jesus in the tomb)

-preach...

Band

-the three gifts (Matthew 2:11)

- Gold ...His dignity (royalty) -- King
- Frankincense...His divinity (fully God) -- Priest
- Myrrh...His destiny (explain how odd) – Savior

-lighting a candle...