

Do You See What I See?

Missing The Obvious

Matthew 1-2 & Luke 1-2 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Here's What Matthew & Luke Want Us To See

(1) THE STAR & WISE MEN:

A God who **PURSUES US**.

Matthew 2:1-12 Romans 3:10 & Psalm 14:2-3; 53:2-3 1 Timothy 2:1-4
Revelation 3:14-22 2 Timothy 2:24-26

(2) THE SHEPHERDS:

A God who **CARES FOR THE LEAST OF US**.

Luke 2:8-18 James 2:5 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

(3) THE STABLE:

A God who **UNDERSTANDS OUR PAIN**.

Luke 2:1-6 Hebrews 4:14-16 Isaiah 53

(4) THE MANGER:

A God who **TRANSFORMS TRASH INTO TREASURE**.

Luke 2:6-16 Revelation 12:10 & 1 John 2:1 1 Peter 2:9-10 & 2 Corinthians 5:17
Philippians 1:6 1 John 2:3-5

(5) BABY JESUS:

A **KING** to be **WORSHIPPED**.

Luke 1-2 & Matthew 1-2 Revelation 1:17-18 & 19:11-16/ John 14:6

Food for Thought for the week of December 17, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Every nativity scene has some version of baby Jesus at the center. As Larry pointed out, many of us still see Jesus this way, as a baby in a manger and not as a king to be worshipped. Despite the manger scenes and some of the misguided beliefs we have about Jesus, the Bible reminds us that he is the Almighty God. As you read the following verses, how might they challenge the idea of Jesus as just a helpless infant in a manger?

Job 26:7-14 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁷ He spreads out the northern skies over empty space;
he suspends the earth over nothing.
⁸ He wraps up the waters in his clouds,
yet the clouds do not burst under their weight.
⁹ He covers the face of the full moon,
spreading his clouds over it.
¹⁰ He marks out the horizon on the face of the waters
for a boundary between light and darkness.
¹¹ The pillars of the heavens quake,
aghast at his rebuke.
¹² By his power he churned up the sea;
by his wisdom he cut Rahab to pieces.
¹³ By his breath the skies became fair;
his hand pierced the gliding serpent.
¹⁴ And these are but the outer fringe of his works;
how faint the whisper we hear of him!
Who then can understand the thunder of his power?"

Job 38:1-30 *(Lookup in your Bible)*

Jeremiah 10:12-13 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹² But God made the earth by his power;
he founded the world by his wisdom
and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.
¹³ When he thunders, the waters in the heavens roar;
he makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth.
He sends lightning with the rain
and brings out the wind from his storehouses.

Isaiah 40:12-26 *(Lookup in your Bible)*

2. As the above verses pointed out, we have a great and mighty God. Even better than that is the fact that this great and mighty God lives in us. How do the following verses expand our understanding of what it means to have God living in us?

1 Corinthians 3:16 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

2 Corinthians 6:16 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁶ What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will live with them
and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they will be my people.”

Romans 8:9-11 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

1 John 2:27 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

3. God’s dwelling in us has the power to shape us to become less like “us” and more like him. This is often reflected in how we treat others. What examples do you see in the following verses of how he wants us to treat others, based on his own example that he first modeled to us?

Ephesians 4:2 *New International Version (NIV)*

² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

John 15:12 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Philippians 2:5-11 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.