

Led by a Star

by Jim Cymbala

The Christmas story is a spiritual celebration that points to Jesus as the Savior and King, and demands surrender and devotion from those who follow Him.

Duration: 34:29

Scripture: Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1-2, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 18:20, Matthew 24:35, Luke 2:1-5, Hebrews 4:12

Topics: "Christmas"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the power and importance of worshiping God. He shares a personal experience of bringing his Roman Catholic roommate to church and being nervous about how he would react to the worship. However, the speaker witnesses his roommate fully engaging in worship, with tears running down his face, and realizes the impact of worship in drawing God's presence. The speaker encourages the audience to worship God wholeheartedly and surrender their lives to Him. He also highlights the need to understand the spiritual truth and application of Scripture in our lives.

Transcript

So let's read one of the portions of the Christmas story, which is found in the book of Matthew. Let's see what we can learn from it, so that we won't celebrate traditionally, but we'll celebrate more spiritually this year. Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king.

Soon afterwards, some men who studied the stars came from the east to Jerusalem and asked, where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east and we have come to worship him. When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the law and he asked them, where will the Messiah be born? So he's asking the religious leaders.

They knew from the book of Micah, in the town of Bethlehem in Judea. They answered, for this is what the prophet wrote. Bethlehem in the land of Judea, you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judea even though it was a small place, for from you will come a leader who will guide my people Israel.

So Herod called the visitors from the east to a secret meeting, didn't want to be found talking to them it seems, and found out from them the exact time that the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions. Go and make a careful search for the child and when you find him, let me know so that I too may go and worship him.

And so they left and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the east. And when they saw it, how happy they were. What joy was theirs.

It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and presented them to him.

Then they returned to their country by another road since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod, who then went and killed all the babies he could find around that time because he didn't want to worship that baby. He wanted no other thought of another king than him. So this is the famous part of the Christmas story, the magi, the three wise men.

And we're all familiar with it. Let's clear the landscape of any litter and focus in on what we do know. Traditionally on Christmas cards there's three wise men or three magi.

That is not found in the scripture. Most times it's related to the fact there were three gifts. So they say there were three wise men.

But we don't know how many wise men there were. We just know they came from the east following a star looking for this one who was born king of the Jews. We also have to remember that unlike the nativity scenes they never were there with the shepherds.

The shepherds were told that very night that he was born to go to Bethlehem. The angel announced that and the shepherds went. The wise men came weeks, months later, we're not sure.

But they went to a house, not to a manger or a stable. So they came at a different time bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. What's interesting also about that is immediately after this Joseph was warned don't go back because Herod is looking for the child to kill it.

So he and Mary took off to Egypt, an unplanned trip of a great distance. How did they live? How did they pay for food? How did they get lodging? Most certainly the gold, frankincense and myrrh, especially the gold that was given them became their support. Isn't it great that God knows beforehand the emergencies we'll have and often he supplies before we even get to the emergency.

Isn't that a beautiful thing about God? Those are the things that are traditionally understood but really are not literally true to the scripture. So let's think about that. Why would God put this in the scriptures? What's the purpose? First we find out what happened and then we'll try to just briefly apply it to our lives because all scripture is inspired by God and it's profitable to us.

Remember when you read Streams in the Desert and you look at that verse and you read some inspirational message and you go to the chapter and you read the chapter that day. So then ask yourself, okay, who was this written to? It's in the Bible. Let's say it was written to Jewish people, all right.

I'm not on the edge of some land that I have to possess but what's the spiritual truth application for me as we started to see the new land that they were gonna possess? The writer is saying that's like going into a new year. How do we possess it? What are the promises of God that he gave for the land that we can appropriate for the new year that we go into God willing? So these magi were very hard to understand who they were. They were stargazers.

They were people who studied manuscripts about religion. They weren't Jewish. In fact, their name, magi, is where we get our word magic, magical.

They were magi, wise men, stargazers and they were not kings. They were religious but not of the law of Moses and that's something how God stepped outside the box and showed them a star which they began to follow and they followed it all the way to Jerusalem because somehow in a way we don't understand, they were led to believe and knew by some instinct that a baby was gonna be born and he would be famous and he would be the king of the Jews. It's very interesting when you study this that there are indications in history before this that people were looking for something unusual to happen right around that time coming out of where Israel is.

Not just in that religion. These astrologers or whatever they were, they seem to come from what we call in the Bible Media Persia which was the empire that conquered the Babylonians and it was a Persian emperor who let the Jews go back and rebuild the temple hundreds of years before. So the Bible now tells us that they come to Jerusalem and they start asking, where is he that is born king of the Jews? Because we saw his star.

Someone's being born and he's gonna rule over Israel. The reaction of the people is so interesting because the word spread everywhere. The words were spread in Jerusalem and caused great consternation.

What, what? Remember there's been 400 silent years since Malachi was written. No prophetic utterance, no scripture given us. 400 silent years at which time the Maccabees had led Israel in some revolutionary moves until they were stamped down and now they were under the control of the Roman Empire.

Where is he that is born king of the Jews? So the word got to Herod, King Herod. They say there's another king being born. So Herod said, okay, this sounds like spiritual or biblical or something so tell me, where is the king supposed to be born? And they go, oh, we know.

The religious leader said, we know. It's from the book of Micah. What a great proof of the accuracy of the Bible and that it's inspired by God.

How would Micah know more than 400 years earlier where Jesus would be born? What did he guess? And how, if you say no, it was all arranged. How could you arrange for a census to be taken and for Mary and Joseph to have to go to Bethlehem? Oh, I thank God for his word. How many love your Bible, just say amen.

You know, read the newspaper, read the sports, read whatever you're into, but first thing every day, read the word of God. Because heaven and earth will pass away, but that word will never pass away. They go, oh, it's in Bethlehem.

Even though it's a little town, Micah said, out of you is gonna come somebody very famous. He'll shepherd the people of Israel. Herod meets with them privately and says, yo, listen, go to Bethlehem and look for this baby, the one who's born.

And then when you found him, I don't have time, but when you find him, come and tell me because I wanna come and worship him myself, which of course he did not mean. He wanted to kill him. They went and again, they picked up the star.

Somehow this star appeared and led them in a way to be over Bethlehem, a small town, and they went there and they found Jesus in a stinking manger, in a stable, because there was no room for him in the inn. So here's Mary and Joseph went there because of a census and that was for taxation purposes. So the Roman Empire, every 14 years at least, would take a census.

Why? They wanted to make sure for two things, military signing up, that you would have to serve in the Roman army, but Jews didn't have to. And then number two, how many people are there so you'll know about taxes? And you see how much money you can gouge from the people. They found the stable where he was because Mary and Joseph couldn't find space in the inn.

And they went and they immediately, somehow by some instinct, just seeing this baby, they fell on their knees. Some of us today have him as our savior and we can't get on our knees. They just saw a baby and went on their knees.

We're too high and mighty for that, but they weren't. They fell on their knees. And then they worshiped him verbally, maybe with their hands.

They said things. Worship is always not just from the heart but it involves the vocal cords and our lips and our tongues. And then number three, they pulled out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

There's an interesting observation that some great commentator has made that gold was a gift fit for a king. Gold, royal, you give it to a king. They recognized that this little baby would be a king.

Oh, king of kings and lord of lords. They gave him frankincense. Frankincense was something priestly.

It was religious. Frankincense was a kind of incense, frankincense, that was used in the temple where incense were burnt in the place between the holy place and the holy of holies as a symbol of our worship and our prayers to God because Jesus would be a priest who would bring us to the Father. He would be the mediator because we're not ready and on our own to step into God's presence because of our sins and our unworthiness.

But Jesus would be the great high priest, replacing Aaron and bring us into the throne room of God. And then finally, Myrrh, Myrrh was used for embalming. So already, although he's just a baby, they know he's gonna die.

He didn't come to live, he came to die. He didn't come to teach or do miracles. The main purpose of Christ's coming in the end was to die, not for himself, but for you and me because of the sins you've committed, I commit.

He was able to come and through his blood, wash away and blot out all of our sins and take away all the guilt so that our consciences could be cleansed. In the Old Testament, the blood of those animals, it was just temporary solution that God gave them. But see, it can't cleanse your conscience if you're living a double life, if you're living in sin and you practice it and nobody knows and all of that stuff.

What you can't do is get away from your conscience. It's a tormenting thing, isn't it? It's a tormenting thing. But when you confess your sins to Jesus Christ, he not only cleanses and has you just as if you've never sinned.

Imagine the power of his blood. But he cleanses your conscience so you can have peace and joy. How many are happy that baby was born? Can we put our hands together? Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The baby was born and now they're seeing him at some young age and they bow down and give him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And then instead of going back to Herod to do what he asked, which would have not been good for the future of the baby, they were warned by God, go back a different way. Do not stop by Jerusalem and tell Herod anything.

So God warned them through a dream. There's a lot of warning through dreams in the Christmas story, supernatural directions from God. They go back a different way and then we know the rest of the story when Herod realized they had played him, what he did was he turned around and had all the babies two years old and younger, did a check, and killed them all, figuring at least I'll get the one they were talking about, just wipe them all out.

History tells us that one of those children that was born was his own son by one of his wives. Herod was a madman, killed at least two of his wives and at least two or three of his children. So this was the kind of hostility and world that Jesus was born into.

So let's just close this up and what are the lessons for us today? Well number one, doesn't it strike you funny that messengers come, wise men, magi come from the east and nobody's running to Bethlehem but them? Isn't that strange? Just picture that, they come, everybody's talking, the religious leaders are looking in the book of Micah, directing them to Bethlehem, Herod is doing his thing, but nobody's going but them. These are the typical reactions that we still have to Jesus today. First of all, Herod, total hatred and hostility.

Total hatred and hostility. That is a reaction that Jesus predicted will always be present as long as his name and his salvation is preached. So don't be shaken by it, don't be upset by it, don't say what's going on.

As long as we are living on earth and trying to spread the gospel, there will not only be people who hear and listen, but there will be people who are hostile. The media, what do you think? Are they happy about Jesus or hostile? How about the Board of Ed? How about the politicians? Isn't it amazing that you can't say Merry Christmas, but you can say Happy Kwanzaa or Happy Hanukkah? Why can you say Hanukkah, but you can't say Jesus? Why can you say Kwanzaa, but you can't say Jesus? Why is that? Make it a point this week, whenever somebody says happy holidays to you, say no, Merry Christmas. Come on, let's say amen to that.

Merry Christmas. Well, why don't they want Christmas? Because that's a joke. Do you really believe that we're gonna have a state-backed religion and go against the Constitution? Do you think this government, as is presently constituted, is gonna set up a state religion, separation of church and state, and force people to be Christians? Does anyone really think that? That's a joke.

That's a joke. No, it's anti-Christian, anti-Christ spirit. Anti-Christ, anything about Jesus, about Christ, about the cross is gonna be fought because it goes back to the spirit of Herod, which is an anti-Christ spirit.

But why? I mean, wouldn't it be exciting? A supernatural baby's gonna be born that was prophesied more than 400 years earlier? No, no, don't you get it? Herod has the spirit that dominates the world. Hey, listen,

I run my own life. I'm in charge.

In his case, I'm sitting on a throne. There's not gonna be anybody else sitting on this throne. I sit on the throne.

And if I find a little kid, I'll kill him. That's the spirit of the world, of people, even though some of them are gonna go to church on Sunday, is listen, I don't wanna hear about King Jesus. You know, do something with the tree and some carols, and I'll be home for Christmas and silver bells.

But I don't wanna know about Jesus because he came to be a king. He demanded loyalty. He said, make me Lord.

Nobody's Lord over me. I run my life. I make my own plans.

No, but you gotta submit to Jesus. No, that's the point. Get out of here with this fanaticism.

Also, Jesus reminds them not only that you can't run your own life anymore if you follow him, but Jesus speaks to us that we're sinners. His name shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sin. You wanna get somebody upset? If they don't get upset about there's another king that wants to run their lives, just tell them that they need mercy.

No, the pride in us. I don't need mercy. You need mercy.

That lady that can't stop drinking, she needs mercy. Bring in those homeless people. They need mercy.

I don't need mercy. The truth is we all need mercy. But that's what, to a proud heart, they resist that.

That's why there's antagonism against the name of Jesus. But you can say anything else, anything else. And always remember this when you talk to people about the Lord.

Say Lord, say God, that's biblical. But make sure you say a lot of Jesus because God and Lord don't make the demons get upset. It's at the mention of the name of Jesus that all hell breaks loose.

How many are happy we have the name of Jesus? Jesus. And if people react poorly, so what, like what else is new? They were trying to kill him when he was born. What do you think is gonna change now? He ended up on a cross, not on a throne on earth.

He ended up on a cross. Why? Because there's in this world the spirit stirred up by Satan himself of anti-Christ, against Christ. And that is what Herod personifies.

And it's everywhere today. If you wanna be a Christian and keep a sweet spirit and serve Jesus and evangelize, you're gonna go against the flow. You're gonna be in the minority.

The road to destruction is wide and many people find it, Jesus said. But the road to eternal life is very narrow. The gate is narrow and few there be that find it.

So if you want a religion where everybody's applauding you, do not become a Christian. But if you wanna follow Jesus and have peace and joy and know you're gonna have eternal life, put your faith in him and serve him. So Herod is a picture of those who have animosity and nothing has changed.

But wait a minute, how about the religious leaders? How in the world could wise men come and you look up in the word of God, Micah, and you find Micah and you go to Micah and you say, hey, he's gonna be born in Bethlehem and you don't go yourself. You don't go yourself. You're the religious leaders.

You're the ones who know the word of God. You know why? Because you can be so lost and yet full of religion. This is a picture of people who are really not interested in Jesus.

They like religion. They like their white culture religion, their black church religion, their evangelicalism. They're going to church on, well, at least twice a year, Easter and Christmas.

But really follow Jesus? Serve Jesus? Surrender to Jesus? Really seek Jesus? He's a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. Pray to Jesus? Bring your problems to Jesus? Let Jesus rule your life? No, no, don't rock the boat. I don't want Jesus, I want religion.

I want Christianity but without really having Jesus. That's everywhere. That's everywhere.

All the surveys show now, the latest by Barna, show that the people not only who go to church on Sunday don't live different than people who don't go to church on Sunday, sometimes they live more immorally than people who don't go to church on Sunday. They gamble more than people who don't go to church on Sunday. Imagine they're taking money that God blessed them with and gambling with it and yet they're gonna go to church and hold up their hands or whatever they do.

So that's a picture of people who, of course the leaders there, it was perks and power. If a new king comes, who knows what could happen? I mean the whole thing, the whole, hey, don't rock the boat. You know that very pathetic story in the New Testament where Jesus came and there was a demon possessed man who was gouging himself and screaming and hurting himself and lived in the tombs, remember that, the Gadarene? And then Jesus set him free.

The town heard about it and all of them ran out to where Jesus was and saw the guy. Yo, look at the guy. He's sane, he's peaceful, he's in his right mind.

And you know what the people said? They begged Jesus to leave town. Why would you do that? Look what he just did. No, I don't wanna know that.

I don't wanna know that. That's something I'm not used to. I don't understand that stuff.

That must be fanaticism. That's emotionalism. I don't wanna hear that Holy Ghost stuff.

I just want my religion. I go to the temple. Hey, stop knocking me out.

I go to the temple when I'm supposed to. I do my sacrifices. Don't get me involved in something.

I don't know where this all goes. That spirit is everywhere. Religion without Jesus.

I pray to God today that nobody here has church going without Jesus. Brooklyn Tabernacle without Jesus. You think the Brooklyn Tabernacle can help you? Oh, let me send you a memo right now.

The Brooklyn Tabernacle is hopeless to help you. You need Jesus. We need Jesus, a relationship with Jesus.

Him at the center of our lives. Not church, Jesus. And lastly, as I close, we have the population.

There was great concern. The word spread everywhere. We read that.

A baby's born. A baby's born. He's gonna be king.

He had a star. How many children have a star? And not one of them went and followed the wise men to let me check this out. This sounds like it's important, doesn't it? A scripture being fulfilled after hundreds of years.

Why? No, I don't have time. I'm busy. I gotta text all my friends today.

Who's gonna make the NFL playoffs? I've no time for your, what, Jesus? Some baby gonna be born? Well, of course, that's the spirit today. No room. Room for houses, lands, and pleasures.

Room for things that pass away. But for the one who lives forever, there's no room today. Not room in our house, room in our lives.

You know, the first thing that Jesus claims for all of us is our attention. You have to pay attention to Jesus. What, who is he? What's he saying? What's this about? You don't pay attention, you're not gonna know anything.

But we're so busy, and the pace of life is such, and now with all the social media and all of that. Imagine if we talked to Jesus one half as much as we talk to other people during the day, just on social media. We would be like the greatest prayer warriors in the history of the world, right? And we know everything about every new movie, and every new thing, and every new style.

And I saw someone the other day, I thought just in a generation how things have changed. It used to be, not that long ago, that somebody would say, no, don't wear those jeans today, they're ripped. Don't you see that rip? Don't wear that, get a pair of jeans that aren't ripped, right? Now today they go, don't wear those jeans, they're not ripped enough, you gotta rip them up more.

That's what's important. And the new Jordan sneaker, and the new Nike, that's what's important. Those are really important things.

When you die and you face eternity, those are really important things. Those are the things you're concentrating on. And that's why nobody went to Bethlehem, just too busy.

I've been doing this for a while. Nothing's changed. Antichrist spirit, religious spirit without Jesus.

I have ministers tell me, I notice you have no format for the meeting, and you don't preach without notes, and you don't even know when you'll end. How do you do that? I said, well, just we start, and the Holy Spirit will guide us. Oh no, I don't want that wildness.

No, no, no, I don't want that. Everything organized down to the minute. Why, isn't God alive? Doesn't he know what to do in a service? Can't we follow his leading? See, religion without the reality of a living Jesus.

Where two or three are gathered, Jesus said, I'll be there. So if he's here, how many know he's here today with us? Well, if he's here, shouldn't we recognize him? Let's recognize him right now. Come on, let's praise him.

Play it louder. Come on, keep clapping for Jesus. They bowed down before him.

I think that shames some of us. I noticed when I asked some of you, let's all lift our hands. I know some people who I know are Christians, you wouldn't lift your hands.

Are you too good to lift your hands? No, I'm asking, are you too good? Well, I don't like to do that. Well, I thought it's not about what we like, I thought it's about what he wants. But you see how religion can be inverted? It's about what I feel, what I'm going through.

It's not about Jesus. For some reason, in both the Old and New Testament, God delights in us lifting our hands. How many are not ashamed to lift your hands up? Lift them up just for a second.

It won't kill you, you see, you didn't die. They knelt, they went down on their knees in front of a baby. Just think, it's hard for us to worship, and he died for us and rose again from the dead and has changed our lives, but we have a hard time really being free and wholehearted in our worship.

But they're kneeling in front of a baby who they haven't even seen for three minutes. What a lesson for us. Jesus is worthy to be praised.

Let the world laugh at you. Listen, let the world laugh at you. Someone might be in the row and very sophisticated, and what are they doing? They're lifting their hands.

There were some visitors here, I don't know from where, the military or something, and while the Christmas show was going on, there's a lady in the third row, about three rows in front of me. She just lifted her hand while they were singing O Holy Night, and they started tapping each other. I said, look, look at her, look at her, look at her.

She's got her hand up, look. Well, of course people are gonna mock you. Well, what do you want? The approval of people or the approval of God? I want the approval of God.

How many say amen with me? And then the Bible says they worshiped him. When they knelt, they submitted to him. When you kneel, you submit.

The highest form of worship is not what you say, it's a heart that says, Jesus, take my life. If Jesus isn't leading your life, what good does it, what do we sing? What do you think, we can make up lyrics that God is gonna be pleased with when I don't want him running my life? No, that's what it means. The Father seeks those who will worship him in spirit, in su corazon, with the help of the Holy Spirit, and in truth and sincerity.

So they knelt, they submitted, they worshiped him. Imagine, they were wise men from the east. They must have lifted their hands.

Maybe they did like this, you know, like the Jewish people do at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. They did like this. Oh, most of us are way too cool to ever do anything like that.

Kneel, someone could have walked in while I'm kneeling. Say, what are you doing down there? Oh, I'm kneeling before Jesus. What are you, nuts? No, maybe you're nuts.

I'm kneeling before Jesus. He's worthy of my praise. Is he worthy of our arms? Is he worthy of our hearts? Is he worthy of our mouths? And finally, they gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

I already took the offering. This is no setup for a gift. He doesn't need gold, frankincense, and myrrh from us.

You know what gift he wants from everyone here, those visiting for the first time? He wants your life. Present your bodies as a living sacrifice. Just give Jesus your life.

Just submit your life and say, God, take control. That's pure, real worship. You know, there's a power in worship.

And when I've been at my best, I have a freedom to worship God. But many times, I'm not at my best. So one time, I was, a lot of years ago, playing at Universal Rhode Island.

Guys from Liberty had a good team. Beat UConn in a playoff. Went to the NCAA tournament when only 24 teams played.

I was the captain, the point guard. And I had been witnessing to my roommate and trying to get him to come to church. He was Roman Catholic, Italian guy, Roman Catholic.

So finally, I get him to come to the church in Brooklyn, here in Bay Ridge. And you know, when you bring somebody, you're like nervous that things don't get like crazy. Come on, how many know what I'm talking about? Come on, lift your hand if you know.

And things in this church were orderly and done in a good spirit, I think. But I still was nervous. Would he understand? Would he understand people lifting their hands? Would he understand people singing? And would he understand people crying like I often do when I worship God? I was nervous.

And I was in college. I was trying to shake and bake people. I didn't know how to lead people to Christ.

What happens, the minister, the pastor says, we have visitors here with us today. I'm going, uh-oh. Because I knew the pastor, he was a good man of God, but who's this visitor? And he said, they're visiting from Scotland.

They really love Jesus. And this guy comes out, Brian, with a kilt on a skirt. With high socks on, with a, you could see his knees.

He's on the platform. You're not supposed to show your knees on a platform in a church. Are you? And I'm going like, oh no.

And my friend's just watching. And he's got this kilt on. And he's from Scotland, very few Christians there.

And he's full of God, he's full of fire. And he starts to testify about how hard it is to be a Christian in Scotland, but how what God has done in his life. And he's walking around, and he got a skirt.

Skirt is flapping. How many know what a kilt is? You know, all right, so you know what I'm talking about. The dude has a skirt on.

And I'm like, oh no. What is he thinking? All he knows is the mass, making the sign of the cross. Now we got a skirt on the platform here.

So this guy stops in the middle of the message, and he goes, you know what? I think you're dead here. Because you're so used to going to church, you don't know what it is to fight, to hang on to Jesus. And

with great tenderness, he gives a correction to the church.

He says, you know what? You know, it's like, I just, my words are bouncing back on you. Don't you love Jesus? Don't you really want to worship him and praise him? And he's anointed, and he's talking. And he said, you know what? I'm just, I don't know about you here, but I want to worship God.

I don't care what anyone thinks. I'm in a country where Christianity's mocked left and right. But I want to serve him.

And then I'm sitting there, and now I forget about my roommate, and my heart is beating, heart is beating. And it's like, no, you, you little hypocrite. Why don't you worship God and stop worrying about your friend? Did you come here to observe your friend and play it safe, or did you come to worship me? And I said, I don't care.

I forgot about my roommate, and I jumped to my feet as others were doing it. And I put up my hands, and I began to weep and just sob. And suddenly, as someone was playing, you could just hear sobs and worship all over the building.

It was amazing. Nobody orchestrated it. No praise worship leader yelling at you.

A little of that goes a long way to for me. And as I'm lost and worshiping God and just praising him, I'm thinking of my friend. You know, after about two, three minutes, I'm going, oh no.

I'm standing up right next to him. All heaven is breaking loose in the meeting. Everyone's praising God.

He probably left. And I opened my eyes and I looked over, and there he was with his hands up, with his hands up, with tears running down his eyes. Because when you worship God, it draws his presence.

And his presence is real. It explains things in a way that the human mind and tongue can't explain. It proves the reality of God.

Oh, I want to worship him this Christmas. How about you? Do you want to worship him? Come on, let's stand together. If you're here today, and maybe the Lord spoke to you while we were going over the story of the wise men from the east, and you have praise to kind of make up, you haven't been praising him.

Or maybe you need to surrender to the king. You need to bow before him. I don't know what he's saying to you.

Maybe you're not a Christian. Maybe you are a Christian, but you've been drifting away in your heart from the Lord. So what we want you to do is just come out of your seat.

That's all. I'm not going to pray over you, but you're going to just testify by coming to the front. Lord Jesus, I worship you today.

I'm not embarrassed of you. I'm not ashamed of you. I'm going to worship you with all of my heart.

You mean more to me than anyone in the world. You come out of your seat and just stand here in the front. And all the people said, everyone turn around and wish each other a Merry Christmas.

Give a hug to somebody. No handshake, just a hug. Come on.

Don't be macho.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/27/SID27641.mp3>
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