

# VANTAGE POINT: THE WISE MEN AND THE KING

December 7, 2014 - Pastor Derwin L. Gray

- **Open in prayer.**
  - o *The Vision of Transformation Church is to be a multi-ethnic, multi-generational, mission-shaped community that loves God completely (upward), ourselves correctly (inward), and our neighbors compassionately (outward).*
- **Our Vision—the Great Commission and the Great Commandment—transforms us to:**
  - o Live God's upward, inward, and outward love with people who are different from us.
  - o Move from being *color blind* to *color blessed*.
  - o Allow the fruit of the Spirit to be evident in our lives—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
  - o Realize that God has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus and through Jesus we can reconcile with one another to show the world God's upward, inward, and outward love.
  - o Spend less time trying to show people what is right and spend more time being the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus.
- **Read and discuss Matthew 2:1-10, 13, 16.**
  - o Today, Christmas is often a time about shopping, decorating, giving gifts, and getting together with family and friends.
  - o What was Christmas like for Mary and Joseph and the time they were alive?
  - o How did the Wise Men hear about this Messiah?
  - o What did King Herod do to try and prevent Jesus from living?
- **This Christmas, see Jesus as the King of the Jews, Israel's Messiah, and the Great Shepherd.**
- Read Psalm 23:1-3.
  - o What does it mean to be a King?
  - o Discuss the following statement: *A king has a kingdom and a people. In a worldly kingdom, people are subjects. In God's Kingdom people are children.*
  - o What's the difference for us when we live as the King's kids instead of His subjects?
  
  - o What does it mean to be a Messiah?
  - o The Jews wanted a Messiah who would set them free from the Roman oppression so they could have their promised land. Jesus came to set us free from the oppression of sin, death and evil.
  - o How does understanding what Jesus—the Messiah—did for us change the way we live?
  
  - o What does it mean to be the Great Shepherd?
  - o The Great Shepherd provides love, care, and protection.
  - o As Christ-followers, how can we be a reflection of Him as the Great Shepherd to a hurting world?
- **Gold is a gift for Jesus the king, frankincense is a gift for Jesus the priest, and myrrh is a gift for Jesus the sacrifice.**
- Read Matthew 2:11.
  - o Worship moves us from getting gifts to giving the King gifts. The greatest gift you can give Jesus is your life and your best.
  - o A king is worthy of gold and Jesus is worthy of your best.
  - o What does that look like in your everyday life?
  - o Give examples of how you can be the heart, hands and feet of Jesus in your home, at work, at school?
  - o A priest is a bridge builder. He holds the hand of God the Father and the hands of humanity. Jesus brings the power of heaven on our lives...He gives you the power to live for Him!
  - o What areas in your life do you need to allow Jesus our Priest to build a bridge for His power to be at work?
  - o Jesus is the Sacrifice that says, "When you blew it I'm gonna get you through it".
  - o He died for your sins...past, present, and future.
  - o Do you remember what He rescued you from?
  - o Do you understand His forgiveness and grace?
  - o As you marinate on His sacrifice you can't help but be "head over heels" in love with Jesus!
  - o When you realize what His sacrifice did for you, how does that change the way you deal with people?

- **Don't be like Herod who opposed King Jesus.**
- Read Matthew 2:7-8, 16.
- Are you finding your significance in something or someone other than Jesus?
- What happens when you lose control?
- Discuss this statement: *If you oppose Jesus, you're going to hurt both yourself and the people around you.*
  
- **Soul-tattoo: Give King Jesus three gifts this Christmas: your time, talent, and treasure.**
- Read John 3:16-17.
- Your time. All of life is worship.
  - Are you an expression of worship in all your life?
- Your talent. See what you do as being "on mission" with God.
  - Are you the heart, hands and feet of Jesus at home, at school, at work, in your neighborhood?
- Your treasures. The depth of discipleship is indicated in the depth of your giving.
  - Are you living a life of generosity?
  
- Close in prayer.

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## CALENDAR

Christmas Eve Services

TC 521: 2, 4, 6pm  
TC RH: 4pm

BECAUSE Campaign

[Because.TransformationChurch.tc](http://Because.TransformationChurch.tc)