

THE BIG IDEA: We miss the King when we try to fit God's gift into our boxes

The Take-Off

One of my all-time favorite youth group events was a scavenger hunt called "The Fugitive"

The "fugitives" dressed in disguise and walked around the mall while the teenagers tried to find and "catch" them. What made it such a fun event was that the fugitives were all people the youth knew - but they didn't look like the expected them to

When I was researching for that game, I ran across another church that had done it and that they had one adult who was never found - and he wasn't even really disguised!

He was the older deacon who always wore a suit and tie to church but spent the whole game in the food court serving people by taking their trays and trash for them and wiping down tables

The mere fact that he was doing what the teens never expected him to be doing kept him hidden in plain sight. That's exactly what happened with Jesus

He came as an unexpected King - or at least in unexpected ways for a King - and that caused people to miss Him.

1. How to miss a king

- a. Let's talk through a number of reasons why the religious leaders missed the king when Jesus came to earth
- b. John 18:36 / Reason #1: They expected a king of fight more than a king of light
- c. John 7:40-44 / Reason #2: They expected a big king to have a bigger start
- d. Matt. 9:9-13 / Reason #3: They expected a king to stand with them against people instead of one who stood with people against them
- e. Matt. 21:12 / Reason #4: They expected a king to overthrow the government, not overturn their system
- f. Mark 10:42-45 / Reason #5: They expected a king who would position himself in power, not service
- g. Heb. 4:15 / Reason #6: They expected a king who symbolized strength, not sympathized with weakness

2. How to not miss a king

- a. In **Matt. 2:2 (NLT)** we find wise men who, like the religious leaders, were looking and expecting
- b. Why did they see the king when others missed the king?
- c. They made the choice to do more than expect - their expectation turned into exaltation
- d. They didn't try to fit God's gift into their box, but instead bowed to the King
- e. "We have come to worship Him."
- f. Worship - a life lived with Jesus as Lord - is the only right response to the King

The Landing

I've thrown a lot at you, so let's wrap up this Christmas Sunday with a short video.

[**VIDEO / The Wrong Christmas Story**]

The bottom line - our Big Idea - is this: **we miss the king when we try to fit God's gift into our boxes.**

This year, let's truly be wise men (and women and teens and boys and girls)... but not just by seeking Him, but by worshipping Him when we find Him.

"We have come to worship Him."

Let's pray.