



## **Advent #3 - "Joy Found in the Darkness"**

The Vineyard Church of Conroe

Raymond McDonald

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**Sermon Notes**

### **Life Can RESEMBLE A BROKEN CHRISTMAS MANGER**

Jesus Came TO HEAL BROKEN LIVES

Videos:

*When my worry is great within me, Your comfort brings joy to my soul. Psalm 94:19 NLV*

#### **I. Matthew 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup> " "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

<sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

### **The Joy of Jesus' Birth BREAKS THROUGH THE DARKNESS OF OPPRESSION**

Herod was an oppressor. We're all following a star, but when you run into an authority that tries to squish that...

We all have felt what it means to be oppressed, be it the "system", the man, mom, dad, boss, pastor...satan.

We know what fear, anxiety, worry, stress, things which lead to Depression, feel like. It feels like we are left out in the dark. But when the light of Jesus breaks through, and it will...

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. <sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. Isaiah 9:2-3a*

- **RECOGNIZE** that Light always pierces the darkness
- **REMEMBER** to Surrender Your Worry to God in Prayer
- **REFLECT** on the Glorious life of Jesus

*CLOSE: When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12*