



SPORTS IN FOCUS

THE COMING OF THE KING

Matthew 1:1-2:23 • Lesson One

READY

- The Gospel of Matthew opens with the miracle of Jesus' birth! Describe some of the Christmas activities and traditions you and your family observe. If someone from another culture visited your family, what would they conclude about Christmas?

SET

Context of Matthew 1:1-2:23

Matthew records the good news about the most significant events in all of history—the birth, life, sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Each Gospel writer wrote from a unique perspective and for a different audience. As a result, each Gospel contains distinctive elements. Taken together, the four Gospels form a complete testimony about Jesus Christ.

Keys to Text

Gospel: The English word gospel derives from the Anglo-Saxon word godspell, which can mean either “a story about God” or “a good story.” The latter meaning is in harmony with the Greek word evangellion, which means “good news.” Matthew and the other Gospels record the good news of Jesus' life. The primary purpose of the Gospels is to provide authoritative answers to questions about Jesus' life and ministry, and they strengthen believers's assurance regarding the reality of their faith.

GO

Read Matthew 1:1-2:23

1. Looking back over chapter 1, what are some of the titles and descriptions used to describe Jesus?
2. What do these chapters reveal about Joseph, the “stepfather” of Christ?
3. How did Herod respond to the news of Jesus' birth?
4. How do your traditions about “the wise men” compare with what the biblical text actually says?
5. Why does Matthew begin his Gospel with the genealogical records of Christ?
6. What is significance of the statement that Mary was “found with Child of the Holy Spirit” (1:18)?
7. Mary and Joseph faced a very unusual “crisis.” Though she was a virgin, she was pregnant. How do you think others view their relationship and treated them? What can modern Christians learn from their response to an extremely trying situation?
8. What are the life lessons we can glean from the “wise men”? See if you can list at least five.

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Every season when college football begins most schools celebrate activities and traditions on game day. Nearly every school celebrates “Homecoming” and others have pep rallies to prepare the fans and team for the upcoming game. Does your school have any unique celebrations or traditions in sports? What spiritual activities or traditions do either you or your team do? How do these activities focus on the glory of God and the gospel?

What will you do differently, as a result of this study, to demonstrate your love and devotion to Christ?