

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY  
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**Thread:** We are \_\_\_\_\_ when we stare into the face of God.

Matthew 2:1-2,10-11 (NLT)

*"Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.'... 10 When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! 11 They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."*

## Joseph and Mary

### Why are they in the story?

- Had \_\_\_\_\_ their hearts toward God

### What did they see when they stared into the face of God?

- Jesus looked like \_\_\_\_\_.

### What was their response?

- They \_\_\_\_\_ to make Jesus the centerpiece of their lives.

## The Shepherds

### Why are they in the story?

- \_\_\_\_\_.

### What did they see when they stared into the face of God?

- Their " \_\_\_\_\_ "

### What was their response?

- \_\_\_\_\_ told others to whoever would listen

## The Animals

### Why are they in the story?

- Jesus chose to be from \_\_\_\_\_ beginnings.

### What did they see when they stared into the face of God?

- Their \_\_\_\_\_

## The Wise Men...(This night began their journey)

### Why are they in the story?

- They recognized a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ beyond themselves that was worth the long journey.

### What did they see when they stared into the face of God?

- A knowledge, wisdom and wealth \_\_\_\_\_ than their own.

### What was their response?

- \_\_\_\_\_ sacrificially to honor Him

## What have we seen as we stare into the face of God this night?

## What is our response?

## Challenge:

What will WE/YOU do?

"A new year will not create a new you...but new decisions do."

What decisions need to be made? What changes can WE make?

- Posture my heart toward God.
- Sacrifice to make Him the centerpiece of my life.
- Surrender/yield to a knowledge, wisdom and wealth greater than their own.

## Chair Time Tools:

- 1) Of the four perspectives that Pastor Craig shared this Sunday (Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the animals, and the wise men), which do you resonate more with and why?
- 2) Why do you follow Jesus?
- 3) What do you see when you look at Him?