



Last Sunday we celebrated the feast of **Epiphany**, the **Three Kings**, The Kings, **Magi**, were people of some resources (see their **presents!**) who watched the stars and knew that something pretty special had happened. Tradition says they were priests from Persia and wise men. Tradition also says there were three, which is mainly based on the three gifts, but we don't know for sure.

The story of the **Magi** is **special** because they are the **first** people who are described explicitly as **worshipping Jesus**. We, as worshipers, can learn some things from them.

1. They made an effort.

Travelling many hundred miles to **worship** this new king was a bit of a hassle for them. They must have had other things to do! But they let the Son of God interrupt their lives and call them to worship. How good are you at allowing God to interrupt your life and call you to worship each week? Each day?

2. They came prepared.

They came with **gifts**. They thought through what they were going to **give** when they got there. There was meaning for them in their **worship gifts**. What worshipping gifts do you bring on the Sabbath?

3. They were full of joy.

The chance to meet with this newborn Christ really **made their day**. They were **overjoyed**. They had arrived and now was the moment, you can feel the anticipation. **Joy** and **celebration** are **vital** features of worship. How much **joy** do you **experience** when you worship?

4. They saw the child.

They could have left their presents at the door, but what they most wanted was to **see the child**. Worship would be easy if we could just turn up, do our bit, sing a song or two and go home. But true worship is an **encounter with God**. **In true worship, we see Jesus**.

5. They bowed down and worshipped.

They knew what to do in the presence of a king. Had they planned to bow, or could they simply do nothing else when they saw him? When we encounter God, like the magi, do we **bow** down because he is **God**. Face to face with God means on our face.

6. They opened their treasures.

When you come to worship God, do you bring your treasures, those things most precious to you, (money, time, talents, reputations etc.) and lay them before him?

The Bible says that where your treasure is, that's where your heart is. Those who bring their treasures are those who have given him their hearts.