

Through Jesus' Eyes

Sunday, December 11, 2022
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Stepping Stones Community Church

18 "Come now, let's settle this," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow.

Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.

Isaiah 1:18 NLT

1. Wise men from eastern lands

- They are seeking a newborn king
- King Herod has sinister plans

¹ 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, ² "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." ³ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?" ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶ 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel."

Matthew 2:1-6 NLT

⁹ After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. 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. ¹² When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

Matthew 2:7-12 NLT

8 "He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall." 1 Peter 2:8 NLT

2. The ripple effect of sin

- Godly actions sometimes move people to sin
- Focus on God's love and forgive all sin and offenses

Next Steps:
☐ Commit to forgive others when they sin against me
☐ Trust God that his love and forgiveness can overcome all sin and the hurt and pain caused by sin
☐ Worship and seek Jesus like the wise men did
☐ Read the wise men story this week (Matthew 2)
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⁷ Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸ Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"