

# **Kreeft's Three Transcendentals**

**1. Goodness**

**2. Beauty**

**3. Truth**

## Matthew 2:1-13

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.”

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?” “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:

‘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 2:1-13

Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. 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!" 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. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! 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.

## Matthew 2:1-13

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. After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and His mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill Him.”

# **Matthew 2:1-13**

## **The Journey to Joy**

- 1. The Purpose of Curiosity**
- 2. The Insufficiency of Curiosity**
- 3. The Joy of Curiosity**

# **The Purpose of Curiosity**

...to guide us out of  
bewilderment and into  
**TRUTH.**

Understimulation

Overstimulation

“boredom”

“overwhelm”

apathy & meaninglessness

anxiety & burnout

*Bored w/our lives and  
looking for a spark*

*Overwhelmed w/all the  
things and looking for relief*

**Reproduction**

**Stewardship**

**Spiritual Growth**

**Incorporation Into the Body**

**Post Decision Evaluation**

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**Repentance and Baptism**

**Decision to Act**

**Personal Sin Acknowledgement**

**Positive Attitude**

**Grasp claims and Implications**

**Awareness of Jesus' Claims**

**Awareness of Gospel**

**Open to Spiritual Realm**

**Closed Off to God**

## Matthew 2:1-2

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## **What we know about "We Three Kings of Orient are"?**

- 1. There wasn't three.**
- 2. They were foreigners.**
- 3. They were magi [μάγος],  
not kings.**

## Matthew 2:1-2

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.**”

# **Matthew 2:1-13 - The Journey to Joy**

1. The Purpose of Curiosity

***2. The Insufficiency of  
Curiosity***

3. The Joy of Curiosity

# **The Insufficiency of Curiosity**

... it can't get us all the way to truth, we need something more.

## Matthew 2:3-9

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?” “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:  
‘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 2:3-9

Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. 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!”

**(1878-1958) - John B. Watson**

**(1903-1998) - Benjamin Spock**

**(1936-2025) - James Dobson**

“Give me a dozen healthy infants, well-formed, and my own specified world to bring them up in and I’ll guarantee to take any one at random and train him to become any type of specialist I might select — doctor, lawyer, artist, merchant-chief ... and, yes, even beggar-man and thief, regardless of his talents, penchants, tendencies, abilities, vocations, and race of his ancestors.”

- John B. Watson

“Never hug and kiss them, never let them sit in your lap. Shake hands with them in the morning.”

– John B. Watson

“Loving discipline is an act of caring. It teaches a child to respect authority, which is essential for faith.”

— James Dobson

# **Matthew 2:1-13 - The Journey to Joy**

1. The Purpose of Curiosity

2. The Insufficiency of  
Curiosity

***3. The Joy of Curiosity***

## Matthew 2:9-12

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. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with His mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him.

## Matthew 2:9-12

Then they opened their treasure chests and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 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.

“Imagine someone hands you a box of pills. You open it, and 52 neatly laid out tablets meet your eyes. You read the printed information in the pillbox and it claims this medication—if taken at least weekly—could elongate your life expectancy by seven years, significantly increase your chance of happiness, and substantially reduce the likelihood you’ll suffer from depression. Thinking this is too good to be true, you check the side effects. They’re listed as a greater sense of meaning, greater likelihood of volunteering, and more generosity toward those in need. Once again, you’re skeptical. This must be a scam. You turn to the back of the box to see where this information comes from. There you find this medication has been extensively tested by none other than the Harvard School of Public Health. Would you take the pills?”

- Rebecca McCloughlin

"VanderWeele and his contemporaries have conducted robust longitudinal studies with cohorts numbering in the tens of thousands. The findings are striking. Church attendance reduces all-cause mortality by nearly 30 percent over a 15-year period and protects woman against suicide by 400 percent. Weekly churchgoing in women over 40 is as protective against death as annual mammograms. Those attending services more than weekly at age 20 have a roughly seven-year greater life expectancy than their nonchurchgoing peers. Churchgoing protects against alcohol, smoking, and drug abuse and decreases the odds of depression by one-third."