

# Sermon Study Guide – Matthew 2:1-12

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Week of December 18, 2022

Title: “Lay Down”

**Sermon Idea:** Lay down anything that might cause you to miss Jesus.

**Key Points:**

1. Lay down your prejudices.
2. Lay down your fears.
3. Lay down your selfish ambitions.

**What do I want people to know?** I want people to know that we are in a war concerning the lordship of Jesus on this earth. I want them to understand that our worship and witness is to be wholehearted, extravagant and unreserved.

**What do I want people to do?** I want people to (1) see God at work in unexpected places, (2) worship Jesus wholeheartedly, (3) live their lives for God’s purposes.

**What need am I addressing?** I am addressing the need to not miss what God is doing in and around us – live purposefully in light of the coming of Jesus.

**Recommended Resource:** “Don’t Waste Your Life,” John Piper

**Intro:** How do you feel about Christmas? Excited, sad, hopeful? Why?

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**Dig:**

**Day 1: Matthew 2:1-12** details the visit of the Magi to find Jesus. Matthew presents them as a contrast to King Herod. Compare and contrast them.

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**Day 2: Numbers 24:17** is Balaam’s prophecy about the coming Jewish king. How does Jesus specifically fulfill this prophecy?

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**Day 3: Luke 10:25-37** is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. What can we learn from this parable in relation to laying down our prejudices?

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**Day 4: Isaiah 41:8-10** speaks to laying down our fears. What are some key things we need to believe based on these verses in order to lay down our fears?

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**Day 5: Philippians 2:1-11** speaks directly to laying down our selfish ambitions. What attitude must we have to do so? What helps us to have this attitude?

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**Apply:**

- Lay down your prejudices by asking God to help you see people as He sees them.
- Lay down your fears by memorizing Isaiah 41:10 and reciting it when you are afraid.
- Lay down your selfish ambitions by telling yourself, “I am second,” and asking God to remind you that you are to live for His glory.

**Pray:** Heavenly Father, Thank You for sending Your precious Son Jesus to earth to be born king. I accept His rule in my life. Help me to lay down my prejudices, fears and selfish ambition that others may find You and that You may be glorified through me! Amen!

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