

Loving Enemies from the Incarnation



**A few good sermons,
A few stinkers, and
a lot that were just
plain forgettable,
but there was one . . .**



The Syro-Phoenician Woman
“O Woman, great is your faith.”

Matt. 15:28



**The Samaritan Woman
at the Well
John 4**



**The demon possessed
gentile at Gadarenes
Mark 5:1-20**



The Roman Centurion

“Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.”



**“many such foreigners shall come
from the east and the west to join
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the
Kingdom of heaven.”**

Matt 8:10-12



**God pursued the unwanted, the
unloved, the unlikely,
and even His
enemies.**



**At the incarnation, God continued
to invite friends and enemies
to His table.**



**Mary & Joseph, Zechariah &
Elizabeth, Simeon & Anna
The shepherds**



Indiana Jones and the Eastern Magi



Magi – Parthians
Not three kings!



**Mentioned 600 years
Earlier in the
Book of Daniel (2:48)**



Wizir – Vizir
Secretary of State or
Prime Minister



Astrologers, Astronomers, traders with China and Rome



Magi – Parthians

Not three kings!

**Recent victors over Rome,
Israel, and especially Herod.**



**Parthia evicted Herod
30+ years earlier.**



**Fought with General Pompey
against Julius Caesar during
his civil war.**



³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea . . . Matt 2:3-5



Why would they go?



**Why would God
go to them?**



**Why should we
go to them?**



“Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you.”



**20 And he went away and began
to proclaim in the Decapolis
how much Jesus had done for
him; and everyone was
amazed. Mark 5:19-20**

