



The Christmas Kings: A Tale of Two Rulers

Matthew 2

I. The Search for a King: Worshippers and a Worrier (vv. 1-6)

- A. The _____: worshippers drawn by God (vv. 1-2)
[Dan. 2:48; 7:27; 9:24-27; Num. 24:17]
- B. _____ the worrier king (v. 3)
[Lk. 1:5; Prov. 16:14; 28:15; 29:25]
- C. Scripture _____ the True King (vv. 4-6)
[Micah 5:2; Matt. 1:17]

II. The Response to the King: True Worship vs. False Worship (vv. 7-12)

- A. Herod's _____ (vv. 7-8)
- B. The Magi's _____ (vv. 9-10)
- C. The Magi's _____ (v. 11)
 - 1. The Magi worship with their _____
 - 2. The Magi worship with their _____
 - 3. The Magi worship with their _____
 - 4. The Magi worship with _____
- D. Divine _____ (v. 12)

III. The Flight to Egypt: The King Who Becomes a Refugee (vv. 13-15)

- A. God _____ His servants (v. 13)
- B. God _____ His Son (v. 14)
- C. God _____ His Word (v. 15) [Hos. 11:1]
 - 1. Jesus is not _____ from your suffering — He has lived it
 - 2. God's plan for your life may involve _____ that feel like disasters
 - 3. Obedience is often _____ and costly
 - 4. God writes His story through unlikely _____

IV. The Slaughter of the Innocents: The Shadow Cast by the Anti-Christmas King (vv. 16-18)

- A. The _____ of a threatened king (v. 16)
- B. Earth's _____ echoes Scripture's voice (vv. 17-18)
[Jer. 31:15, 31-34]
 - 1. _____ exposes the world's darkness
 - 2. Evil is real, but it is never _____
 - 3. Jesus came for a world drenched in _____
 - 4. God _____ every tear
 - 5. A hopeful shadow of the _____

V. The Return to Nazareth: The King Who Grows Up in Obscurity (vv. 19-23)

- A. God _____ the threat (vv. 19–20)
- B. God _____ their steps (v. 21–22)
- C. God _____ His plan through obscurity (v. 23) [Jn. 1:46; Isa. 53:2-3]
1. Jesus identifies with the _____ and the overlooked
 2. God's plan for your life may involve _____
 3. Jesus is the King who _____ before He ascends.
 4. God's _____ stretches from palaces to tiny villages
 5. The final _____

TAKE HOME:

- Which _____ to Jesus most resembles your own right now—Herod's resistance or the magi's joyful surrender?
- What "Herods" in your heart must die for Jesus to _____ fully in your life?
- How is God calling you to _____ Him in the "Egypt seasons" and "Nazareth seasons" of your life?

Application Questions

James 1:22 says, *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."* These questions are designed to help you apply today's message in your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. Which king are you following in your daily choices—Herod who clings to control, or Jesus who calls for surrender? (Matt 2:3, 2:11)
2. How does your response to Jesus resemble the magi's joyful worship or Herod's fearful resistance? (Matt 2:10-12, 2:16)
3. Are there areas in your life where you, like Herod, pretend spiritual interest but resist true obedience? (Matt 2:8, 2:16)
4. What costly treasure—time, resources, or talents—can you offer Jesus this season as an act of worship? (Matt 2:11)
5. How have you seen God's guidance or provision during times of uncertainty, as He did for Joseph and the magi? (Matt 2:12-14)
6. In what ways do you need to obey God immediately, even when the next step feels unclear or costly? (Matt 2:13-14)
7. How do you respond to suffering or injustice, remembering that Jesus entered a world of darkness and pain? (Matt 2:16-18)
8. Are you willing to embrace seasons of obscurity or "Nazareth beginnings," trusting God's purpose in hidden places? (Matt 2:22-23)
9. Read the take home questions. Which one encourages you or challenges you the most? Why? How will you live differently this week based on what you have learned from Matthew 2?

"Jesus Christ is the unrivaled King. He must be King of your heart before He will be your Savior."

- Charles Spurgeon