

## The Enemies of Jesus

By Jon Arvin

After the birth of Jesus, Joseph is told in a dream to take Mary and their Son to Egypt to avoid the threat against his life from Herod (Matthew 2:13). In this short passage we learn a few truths about the enemies of Jesus.

### **TO THE ENEMIES OF JESUS, NOTHING IS OFF LIMITS:**

*...Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.*

– Matthew 2:13

Herod was fearful of losing his power and authority. He was so filled with pride he was willing to murder an innocent child to hold on to his position. It's hard to imagine the type of evil that must be in one's heart to lead them to kill the life of another, let alone the baby of a couple you didn't know. The sad reality we live in is there are those who openly stand in opposition to Jesus and nothing is off limits to them. Where morality and human decency would normally intervene, sadly none is to be found. Sometimes we see individuals and groups do wicked and vile actions in their stance against Jesus and the truth He brings. These actions completely floor us. Unfortunately the enemies of Jesus have always been this way and Herod is a prime example.

### **THE ENEMIES OF JESUS NEVER QUIT:**

*Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.*  
– Matthew 2:16

If you want further proof that nothing is off limits to Jesus' enemies, look no further than Herod's response to being fooled. The same sin-infected heart that led him to seek Jesus' life leads him to kill every male child two years of age or under. An entire region suffered an unspeakable devastation due to the evil in Herod's heart. Not only is there no moral line the enemy of Jesus is unwilling to cross, but they also never quit. Herod would spend his entire life seeking to destroy Jesus if it meant he got his way. He would go to any lengths or spend any amount of time if he thought it would successfully stop Jesus. It can be disheartening to see individuals like Herod in our world who spend their lifetime trying to remove God and His will from our nation, schools, homes, and the hearts of people altogether. It was the same way in the time of Jesus too.

### **THE ENEMIES OF JESUS NEVER WIN: But when Herod died...**

– Matthew 2:19

Four simple words that teach far more than what they say. Herod went to great lengths

and did sickening things to remove Jesus from the earth and keep the Messiah from coming. Yet it accomplished nothing. God knew, intervened, and His will continued to happen. The enemies of Jesus never win. Nations, kings, armies, and politicians can rise up against God all they want, but their effort is futile. For they are standing against an almighty and perfect holy God. It doesn't matter how powerful they think they are, the enemies of God and their plans will all fall one by one like Goliath. Christian, when the world and its opposition to Jesus discourages you, please remember you serve an undefeated God who despite what you may see, is always in control.

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## What Do You Want From Jesus?

By: Selected

We can read in John's gospel (John 6:1-14) of how Jesus fed about 5,000 people with only 5 barley loaves and 2 fish. When everyone was filled, there were 12 baskets full of leftovers! How that happens, I don't know, but Jesus does. Later, some of those folks were still looking for him, but he said,

*"...you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled."*

– John 6:26

The signs proved he was the Messiah, but the bread briefly satisfied the flesh. Which do you suppose to be more important?

Matthew wrote of how the mother of James and John asked for her boys to have a special place of honor with Jesus (Matthew 20:20-28). That's what she wanted and apparently the boys concurred. The other apostles were angry about this, which is often the result of self-seeking ambition. In contrast, Jesus said that he did not come to be served, but to serve. Which seems better to you?

Jesus was brought before Herod after his arrest in the garden. Luke wrote that Herod was glad and had wanted to see him for a long time only so he could see a miracle happen (Luke 23:8). Herod sought entertainment, but the signs were to bring about faith. Which would you rather have?

Even after the resurrection, the apostles were still thinking in terms of their nation rather

than the world.

*"Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"*

– Acts 1:6

At this point Jesus' closest disciples still held on to a nationalistic view of his work. But God sent him because he so loved the world. Which do we love more?

Perhaps you began reading this thinking I would tell you what you should want from Jesus. No offense, but like those above, and me as well, you will have to figure that out for yourself.

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If you need an updated bulletin picture,  
Kelly will be available today after services.

For the Midtown Ladies:

There will be an afternoon tea for Callie Terry and her new baby, Josie Blake Terry. This will be on Saturday, April 15 at 2pm at the home of Nia FitzSimmon's. More details to follow.

Upcoming Events

TODAY!: Potluck Luncheon with a 12:45pm service. Please bring a potluck dish/dessert to share.

Sun. Apr. 9: Youth devo after evening services.

Area Events (More info on the bulletin board in the hallway):

April 16-19: Spring Gospel meeting at Schertz church of Christ.

April 22-23: Gospel meeting at Riverside church of Christ.

May 6-11: Focal Point at University church of Christ.

Aug. 4-6: Discipleship University at Dripping Springs church of Christ.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Maria Escobar, Friend of the Randles, who was diagnosed with kidney disease and other health issues.

Pam Stryker’s son-in-law Brian Pawlik.

Cathy McGehee’s son Trey, who are friend’s of Debra Prince.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, and Clark Withers.

Evangelism Table

On our evangelism table we have three info-cards. The first one is called "Map of Revelation," and is designed to be used with Back to the Bible Lesson 1. On the front of the card there is a chart which illustrates the process by which we received the truth from God. On the back there is a series of questions the prospect answers before beginning Lesson 1. After completing Lesson 3, the info-card can be consulted again to see the answers that were given.

Service Roster

Week of April 2, 2023

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Jake Jacobs  
Song Leader ..... Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Ron White  
Closing Prayer..... Billy York

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Bryant Siegel  
Cup..... Dan Fielder  
Offering..... Clifton Rutherford  
Assist..... Blake Jacobs  
Assist..... Kanin Jacobs  
Assist..... Jack Jobes

Sunday Evening

Song Leader ..... Fred Scherffius

Opening Prayer..... Lupe Escojido  
Closing Prayer..... James Cammock

Lord’s Supper & Offering..... Clifton Rutherford/  
Bill York

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class ..... Brandon Starling  
Song Leader ..... Kirk FitzSimmons  
Devotional ..... Bryant Siegel

Other

Prepare Communion..... Dolan

Congregational News

Birthdays

Josiah Rodriguez..... Apr. 2  
Jeff Cannady..... Apr. 3  
Nancy Dorries..... Apr. 6  
Audrey Fielder..... Apr. 8  
Maren Fielder..... Apr. 8

Food Helpers for the month of Apr. - Team B.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

## Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons  
Ron White

## Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism  
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence  
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

## Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

## Weekly Reading

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the  
race, I have kept the faith.”  
2 Timothy 4:7

## Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

## Attendance Records

Week of March 26, 2023

A.M. Bible Class.....86  
A.M. Worship.....97  
P.M. Worship.....58  
Wednesday Bible Class.....57

*Financial information is located on the bulletin  
board in the hallway.*

## Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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