



Messy Christmas - Herod – Pastor Mark Pope
December 2&3, 2023

1. Why do most Christmas stories or movies have a villain? What actions or attributes characterizes a villain?
2. Share some examples of villains listed in the Bible. What can we learn when we study villains in the Bible?
3. Read Matthew 2:1-18 In what ways was Herod's behavior extremely self-centered? What happens when people give in to self-centered living?
4. Why do you think people often struggle with the tendency to be self-centered? How can submitting to the importance of Christ protect you from self-centered thinking and behavior?
5. Read John 3:27-30 What is the message John shared? What are some practical ways you can live as John did?
6. Read Acts 12:18-19 Pastor Mark shared that there are times that the Gospel is so important, that it allows for collateral damage. What was the collateral damage in this passage? What did God accomplish through this?
7. Our encouragement during this season is to be part of the Good News, endure the messiness, and don't be a villain. What steps will you take this week to stay within those guidelines?