

Make Him Room

Matthew 2:1-2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

Today’s message will focus on a contrast between two characters of Christmas (or groups of characters). One made room for Jesus. The other only had room for himself.

1. Herod – _____ and Ambitious

Matthew 2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem...

- What do we know about Herod?

Matthew 2:3-8 When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: 6 ‘AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.’ ” 7 Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”

Matthew 2:16 Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.

Matthew 2:13 Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.”

- Herod:

- Thought only of himself.
- Selfish ambition drove him to do unspeakable things
- Self-centeredness caused him to miss Christmas and ultimately led to his eternal destruction.

2. Wisemen – _____ and _____

Matthew 2:1-2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

Who were the wisemen?

- Daniel 2:48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.

- Numbers 24:17 “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; a star shall come forth from Jacob, a scepter shall rise from Israel...”
- Matthew 2:9-12 After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

Some principles we can learn from this story:

- Jewish captives in the OT:
 - You never know when you will go through times of darkness, so don't let the darkness extinguish your light.
 - You never know how your spiritual influence impacts others, so shine for Jesus.
 - You never know how your spiritual faithfulness will influence future generations, so shine for Jesus.

Conclusion:

- Herod – Your disposition and destiny are determined by who sits on the throne of your life.
- Wisemen – Only one King is worthy of your worship and devotion. Make room for Jesus.