
the

FOLLOWERS

December 28, 2014
Celebration | 8:45 am
Elevation | 10:45 am
Pastor Doug Brown

The Magi and Herod: Two different reactions to the King of the Jews

Matthew 2

When did the news of Christ first come to you?

The news of Jesus came to all his followers and will come to all people.

How did you respond when you first heard of Jesus?

Jesus comes into the lives of The Magi and King Herod

Who are the Magi? Who is King Herod?

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

- The Magi
- King Herod

The Magi respond in worship (Matthew 2:1-3) and offering (Matthew 2:7-11)

- We should be responding to Jesus in worship and offering

Herod responds in fear (Matthew 2:3-6) and anger (Matthew 2:12-16)

- In what ways have you responded to Jesus out of fear and/or anger?

How will you respond to the reality of Jesus?

Your response to Jesus should be in proportion to the action of Jesus

- Paul says that we should be walking in a manner worthy of the call.
1 Thessalonians 2:12, Philippians 1:27, Colossians 1:10
“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.” - Ephesians 4:1-6

An appropriate response would be one of worship, sacrifice and offering – ultimately, responding to Jesus means allowing Him to remake you completely

Digging Deeper:

To fully understand this story you will need to fully understand the people in the story. Here is more information on the Magi and King Herod. Looking deeper into who these people were and what they did will help us see how we should be responding to Jesus.

The Magi:

Many scholars think that the Magi were priests and experts in mysteries of astrology from Persia and Babylon. These wise men probably knew of Old Testament prophecy told to them by the Jews in Babylon. Numbers 24:17 says, "A star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel," the Magi would have known this prophecy and would have been looking for this star!

The Magi probably consisted of more than three men. Although the three gifts make us think that there were only three. The Magi, or team of Magi, traveled with groups of nobility and servants who worked for them, their journey could have taken up to 40 days to make but we do not know the speed and way in which they traveled. The Magi may have arrived up to 2 years after Jesus' birth.

The gifts that were given to Magi were gifts that are typically given to royalty. They are representative of the Magi recognizing Jesus' being born king of the Jews.

Herod:

King Herod is a very important character; any who has been to Israel can tell you he has left his mark all over the land. Herod built the Second Temple, Masada, Caesarea Maritime, and the Herodium. He was a powerful and loud leader. He was commissioned and allowed to lead by permission of Rome. This allegiance to Rome played a large part in the way he dealt with the Jewish people. Herod was a ruthless leader, often killing anyone who threatened his kingship or encroached on his land.

If you are interested in learning more about Herod a reading of Josephus and his history of Herod would give you many insights to who Herod was as a leader.

LifeGroup Discussion:

When you meet together as a LifeGroup take some time (3-8 minutes) to think about the first time the story, the person, and the reality of Jesus came into your life. After that take a little more time (5-10 minutes) to think about how your response to Jesus looks like in your everyday life. After coming out of this time of reflection think over the following questions.

1. How did you first respond to Jesus?
2. How do you find yourself responding to Jesus today? (The reality of who he is and the way of life he calls us to)
 - Do you find yourself responding in fear and anger?
 - Do you find yourself responding in worship and offering?
3. Is your response to Jesus proportionate to the action of Jesus?
 - In what ways have you responded apathetically?

Next Steps:

1. **Join a LifeGroup for encouragement and accountability in your growth.** LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. Learn more at calvarylife.org/lifegroups
2. **Use Calvary's new discipleship study called 'Following Jesus' to grow in true dependence on Jesus as our living Lord.** *Following Jesus*, with editions for both students and leaders, are available in Calvary's Corner Bookstore. calvarylife.org/grow