

Herod: There can be only one King.

Matthew's Christmas Story- Part 4 Matt. 2:13-23
Noah Largent 12/20/20



1. Why Fulfilled Prophecy Matters: We have many tools available to help us navigate life. We live in a world with no shortage of opinions about how to live. TedTalks, Books, PodCast, Friends, Family and Teachers. With all these ideas, opinions and people claiming to know the “truth”, who should we believe? The Bible makes the audacious claim that it is a gift from God to help us ① Know who He is, ② what He has done for us and ③ what it means to follow Him. If these claims are true, then it is the supreme source of Truth! Fulfilled Prophecy is one more proof that the Bible is

reliable in what it says! We can find insight about life from others, we can



have powerful dreams or visions, **BUT the final authority for determining how we live and what we tell other about life should always be firmly rooted in what the Bible says.**

2. What's Herod got to lose?

Most of Herod's life work can be attributed to protecting his ① power, ② prestige and ③ his wealth. News of a possible rival King would threaten Herod's control over all the three. Most of us highly value the power of self determination. We live in a world that tells us that part of the recipe for happiness is to make the most over whatever you can control in this world. Having Jesus as King in our lives means that we place our choices and resource under his care and authority. That can be scary. **But it makes perfect sense if He knows more about life and ultimate peace and joy than I do.**

3. Jesus is a gift to the world and he made his followers to be a gift too!

Jesus comes into the world at a time with many competing religious views and a huge amount of political strife. It's worth noting that Jesus didn't pick a winner from among the hotly contested religious factions and didn't even weight in on the best form of government. But it's undeniable that for the people that embraced him - he was the saving gift and a bright light in a dark time. We face many of the same challenges in our world today. Christmas is a great reminder that we can still point people to the saving gift that Jesus is today. It's clear that Jesus made us to shine His light in the world where we live today. (Matt. 5:14-16)



Community Group Questions:

1. What do you think? How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
2. It's easy to see how other people sometimes act like King Herod, but can you identify ways that self-protection and fear have caused you resist welcoming King Jesus into your life?
3. Is there anyone you'll be talking with this Christmas who needs to see or hear the good news through you? Pray for them now.
4. What can you put into practice from what you've learned today?

Notes:
