

# The Incarnation, Part 3

## The King

Pastor Jake Spencer    December 13th, 2015

---

### Today

Over the next 3 weeks we will be looking at Jesus as 1) The Prophet, 2) The Priest, 3) The King.

---

### Jesus: The King

Jesus is the Humble, Hidden, and Heavenly King!

#### I. Humble King (Matthew 2:1-6)

The story opens when an entourage arrives in Jerusalem looking for the King of the Jews and comes before Herod...

##### Herod's History:

- Father makes him Governor of Galilee
- Flees to Rome, made King of Judea, and given an army
- Several years later goes back to Rome
- **Matthew 2:2-3**  
"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled . . .

**So what does Herod do now?** He uses his available resources to figure out how he can control this situation. He calls in the chief priests and scribes and they uncover the location of the birth of the coming King:

- **Micah 5:2**

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

##### **Jesus' Humility:**

- Born in a manager in Bethlehem, Grows up in Nazareth, During His ministry He wanders
- Ultimately He rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, on His way to a humiliating death on a cross

**Jesus summarizes His humble approach as King in Matthew 20:**  
**Kingdoms of Men:** lord it over men and those who are great exercise authority over them **Jesus'**  
**Kingdom:** But Jesus said that He rules differently...

• **Matthew 20:28**

. . . did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

**Humility is not about how much or how little you have, or about how important or un-important you are - it's about what you do with what you have.**  
**Jesus had it all & laid it all down!**

**Main Point:** *Ruling vs. Serving*

**Herod** promoted himself, at the cost of others to gain a kingdom while **Jesus** humbled himself, for the sake of others to give a kingdom

## 2. Hidden King (Matthew 2:7-15)

• **Matthew 2:7-8**

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

**Jesus is hidden and Herod is working in secret . . .**

- Jesus is hidden. Even though the Magi declare Him the King of the Jews, He isn't obvious!
- Herod meanwhile – calls Magi for secret meeting, exchanging info, forges partnership

Herod's History:

- Known for greasing palms, political moves, and savage cruelty against any threat to his power
- He bribed or fought for power and was proficient at collecting tribute for Rome
- Murdered any in his path - including, mother-in-law, wife, and even sons!
- Any yet this kingdom was a mirage - given and easily taken at the whim of Rome.

**Jesus though hidden, was a real King with a real kingdom – the promised King from the line of David. And just like His father David, He was not an obvious King...**

• **1 Samuel 16:7**

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

**Jesus was a real King with a real kingdom, but He wasn't obvious! So, the Magi searched diligently, but from Herod who sought to keep his own kingdom, Jesus remained hidden...**

• **Matthew 2:12-13**

Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

**Jesus and the Hidden Kingdom:**

Jesus often talked about hidden elements of His Kingdom: Food, bread, water, a throne, servants...

- Told Pilate: I have a kingdom and an army, but it's not of this world!

Jesus also spent a lot of time with people who were hidden and not obviously important...

- Tax collectors, prostitutes, thieves, murders, Jewish fishermen, Roman soldiers, Samaritans, even Priests
- Who is the first one to join Jesus in his kingdom? A thief on a cross!

**Jesus & His Kingdom are not obvious – but to those looking for the real king – He can be found!**

**Main Point:** *Hidden vs. Obvious*

**Herod** had a visible kingdom, but it wasn't real. He looked to keep it by cozying up to insiders & killing outsiders. **Jesus** had a real Kingdom, but it wasn't visible - He looked to give it away to seekers despite appearances.

**3. Heavenly King**

• **Matthew 2:16**

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

We see the wickedness and weakness of Herod as he grasps at this temporary kingdom by murdering children. The strong preying upon the weak.

We also see that Jesus, because He and His kingdom are eternal, could rest in the heavenly power at work. Even as a baby, His life is guided and guarded by the Heavens: stars, dreams, visions, angels. **The weak could trust the strong!**

• **Matthew 2:19-21**

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the

land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

Herod kills Bethlehem's sons to keep a temporary kingdom, yet he ends up dead.

Heavenly Father sends His only son to die, and yet He lives in order to give us an eternal Kingdom.

• **Isaiah 9:6-7**

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

**Main Point:** *Temporary vs. Eternal*

**Herod** kills that which is eternal (people) to secure for himself a kingdom that is temporary. **Jesus** lays down all that is temporary (even unto death), to secure for us a kingdom that is eternal.

---

**Conclusion: The Humble, Hidden, & Heavenly King is Here!**

• **Matthew 2:11**

And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Just as the Magi gave Him three gifts, so now we can worship Him by bringing our...

- **Gold** – We can humble ourselves by entrusting all we have into His care
- **Frankincense** – We can bring our hidden hopes to the One who answers prayers
- **Myrrh** – We can bring what is dead to Him, in order to be preserved in an eternal kingdom

**The full sermon is available to view under the Media tab on [gracechapel.net](http://gracechapel.net).**

---

**Discussion Questions**

1. In what ways do you rule like Herod that you need to be more servant like Jesus?
2. Jesus walked with humility even though He knew who He was. How does it change the way that you walk in your life knowing that you are promised eternal life by knowing Jesus?
3. What would it feel like to be a Magi, spoken to in a dream from God, and told to leave your home to go and seek Jesus by following a star?
4. Why did Jesus spend a lot of time with those who were “not obviously important”?
5. What things have we learned about Jesus the Prophet, the Priest, and the King?