

Message Notes

The Worship of Jesus, the King

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction - *The Manger Invasion!*

Philippians 2:5-8

Today's Message:

The worship of Jesus, the King! ~ Matthew 2:1-12

Four people. Four Reactions

Person #1 - Herod

Matthew 2:1, 4, 7-8

How it played out:

Matthew 2:16-18

Represents - *Power, Wealth, Control, Hatred*

Group #2 - "All the People"

Matthew 2:3-4

How it played out:

Matthew 27:24-26

Represents - *Following the Crowd, fear, not thinking*

Group #3 - The Religious Leaders

Matthew 2:4-6

How it played out:

Matthew 16:21, 27:38-43

Represents - *Creating a god in our image*

Group #4 - The Magi

Matthew 2:

How it played out:

Represents - *The unexpected and unlikely and unworthy to truly worship Jesus*

Gospel Application - *"This Christmas, which group are you?"*

Matthew 2:1-12

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."
[Micah 5:2, 4]

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

KING SIZE BED



The Manger Invasion

Philippians 2:5-8

- ⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:
⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with
God something to be grasped,
⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

“Though Jesus was rich, he became poor. Though he was a king, he served. Though he was the greatest, he made himself the servant of all. He triumphed over sin not by taking up power but by serving sacrificially. He “won” through losing everything. This is a complete reversal of the world’s way of thinking, which values power, recognition, wealth, and status. The gospel, then, creates a new kind of servant community, with people who live out an entirely alternate way of being human. Racial and class superiority, accrual of money and power at the expense of others, yearning for popularity and recognition — all are marks of living in the world. They represent the opposite of the gospel mind-set.”





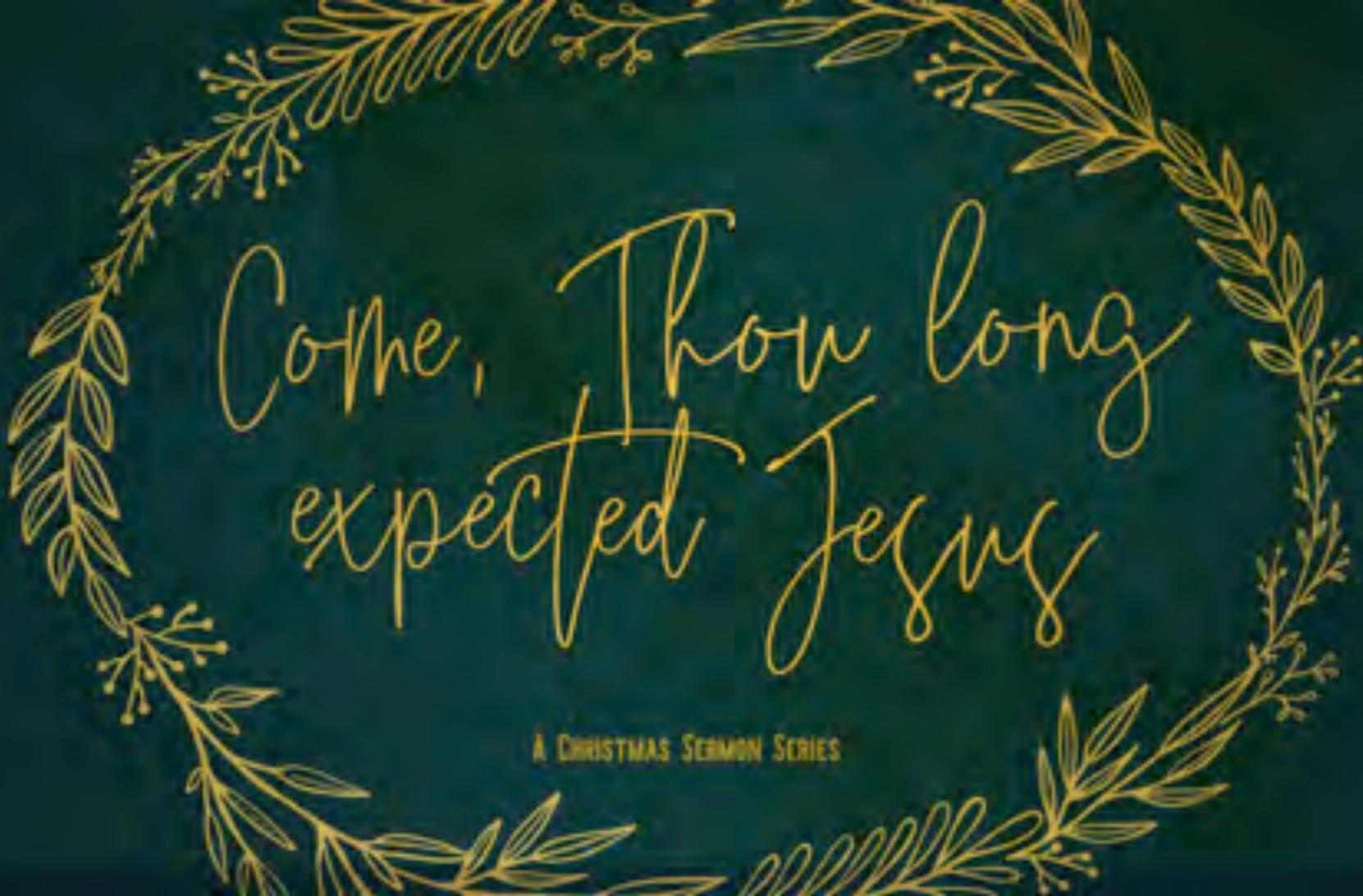


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Come, Thou long
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Matthew 2:1-12

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Today's Message:
The Worship of Jesus, the King
Matthew 2:1-12

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Four People. Four Reactions.



Person #1
Herod the Great

Person #1 - Herod

Matthew 2:1

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

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Group #1 - Herod

Matthew 2:4

⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

Group #1 - Herod

Matthew 2:7-8

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

How this plays out for Herod

Herod's later years, as Josephus records them, were dominated by the obsessive defense of his throne, with the royal family of the Hasmoneans as the most immediate threat. Earlier in his reign his predecessors Antigonus and Hyrcanus were eliminated together with large numbers of their supporters and eventually all remaining members of the Hasmonean family; even those Hasmoneans directly related to Herod by marriage, his brother-in-law, mother-in-law and even his favorite wife Mariamme were killed. In his final years his three eldest sons were also killed on suspicion of plotting to seize their father's throne, Alexander and Aristobulus as Mariamme's sons (and therefore part Hasmonean;) and Antipater who had married a Hasmonean princess...



On one occasion earlier in his reign he faced an assassination attempt, and the ten conspirators were executed together with their families and such conspiracies and disloyalty, real or imagined, became a more frequent feature of his later years between 7 and 4 B.C. Less directly related to a threat to his throne, but a further testimony to Herod's remembered character, is his alleged plan (fortunately not carried out) to have all the Jewish nobility slaughtered at the time of his own death to ensure that mourning was genuine.



~ R. T. France, [*The Gospel of Matthew*](#), The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co., 2007), 84-85.

How this plays out for Herod

Matthew 2:16

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

Group #2

All the People



Group #2 – “All the People”

Matthew 2:3-4

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed,
and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and
teachers of the law, he asked them where the
Messiah was to be born.

How this plays out for "all the people"

[I]t is appropriate that, just as “all the city” will be “stirred up” by Jesus’ arrival as the royal son of David in 21:10 (long after Herod is off the scene), so “all Jerusalem” is already perturbed at the prospect of a dynastic revolution. It will be there in Jerusalem that eventually “all the people” will accept responsibility for the death of their Messiah (27:24–25).



~ R. T. France, *[The Gospel of Matthew](#)*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co., 2007), 70.

How this plays out for "all the people"

Matthew 27:24-26

²⁴When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

²⁵All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"

²⁶Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Group #3
The Religious
Leaders



Group #3 – The Religious Leaders

Matthew 2:4-6

⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶"'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" [Micah 5:2, 4]

How this plays out for the religious leaders

The chief priests were the custodians of the word of God. They were the trained theologians of the day. They knew exactly what Scripture said about every subject. Their training was indeed thorough. Starting as early as five years old, they followed the most learned rabbis, until they were about thirty years old, when they would be recognized as rabbis in their own right and were qualified to train disciples. Although these experts knew what Scripture said and were able to guide the Magi to Bethlehem (2:5–6), they themselves did not bother to follow them to worship Jesus. That is why John said, ‘He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him’ (John 1:11).



~ Joe Kapolyo, [Africa Bible Commentary](#) (Nairobi, Kenya; Grand Rapids, MI: WordAlive Publishers; Zondervan, 2006), 1137.

How this plays out for the religious leaders

Matthew 16:21

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

How this plays out for the religious leaders

Matthew 27:38-43

³⁸ Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!” ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴² “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ”



Group #4
The Magi

Group #4 – Magi

Matthew 2:1

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

Wise men, or Magi, were an important part of most imperial administrations in the ancient Near East (2:1). In Persia, where this particular group most likely came from, they were a priestly class, with expertise in astrology, magic and divination (see Dan 2:2)...These wise men are here presented in a good light and we are encouraged to identify with them. This may seem odd to us, for the Bible is very clear in its condemnation of the practice of magic and divination... But Matthew is not condoning horoscopes as a normal way of seeking God's guidance. Rather, what this passage shows is that God will reveal himself wherever people are looking for him.



~ Joe Kapolyo, [Africa Bible Commentary](#) (Nairobi, Kenya; Grand Rapids, MI: WordAlive Publishers; Zondervan, 2006), 1136.

Group #4 – Magi

Matthew 2:7-8

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

How this plays out for the Magi

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Matthew 2:9-12

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Whatever the social and religious unsuitability of magi, the fact that they were not Jews fitted more congenially with Matthew's universalist agenda. To have the "King of the Jews" recognized and honored first not by his own people but by representatives of the "many" who were later to come from east and west to take their place in the kingdom of heaven (8:11) appropriately set the scene for the ministry of the Israelite Messiah who would both be rejected by his own people (here foreshadowed by the stance of Herod and "all Jerusalem,") and send out his disciples to recruit from all nations (28:19).

~ R. T. France, [*The Gospel of Matthew*](#), The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co., 2007), 67.



Gospel Application



Person #1
Herod the Great

Group #2

All the People



Group #3
The Religious
Leaders





Group #4
The Magi

