

Matthew 2:1-12

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

6 "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." 9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Also read:

Luke 12:22-34

Revelation 2:1-7

Community Group Study 2 May 2010

 REDEMPTION
HILL CHURCH

Introduction

Herod had invested himself in his position and power. He cheated, stole and lied to attain it and to keep it he murdered hundreds of people, including his own family.

Herod served the thing he idolized, and it destroyed him from within. To protect his idol, Herod even sought to kill Jesus.

Jesus is a king in stark contrast to Herod. He did not come to rule as Herod did, or to establish and maintain a hold of an earthly kingdom.

The scribes and chief priests knew where Jesus would be born, but they never made the effort to seek Him out and worship Him. Their "religion" was a cold head knowledge. Even if they had seen the truth before, they had grown cold.

If we grow cold in our faith, we will lose the blessing that God has for us, and like the chief priests and the scribes we will lose the blessing of the power of God.

Let us continually remember to come before God anew every day and, like the magi, bow and worship Him as Lord and King.

Discussion

>>What have we invested our lives in?
>>What do we do to protect that investment?
>>What are the idols in our society?

Explanation

>>Why should we not put our trust in anything but God?
>>What does it mean in Revelation 2 when it says that God will remove the lampstand from Ephesus?
>>Why does God lead the magi by the star?

Application

>>How does our knowledge about God translate to a relationship with God?
>>Do we see Jesus as a threat to our own little "kingdom"?
>>Surrender the control and right to rule over our own lives to Jesus.