

“The King Of Christmas”

Advent December. Unwrapping the Christmas Gift... We unwrap the truth behind Christmas. That is that the baby in a manger, the man on the cross, the Creator of the universe.... Are **one and the same**. Take a month to **marvel at the wonder of the Christ** of Christmas!

Title “The King Of Christmas”

There are many kings of our heart. Christmas asks the question... What do **you** do with the King of Christmas? He gives us **freedom to choose**. One thing is **certain**, Jesus demands you do something with the King of Christmas.

Make no mistake about it, **Jesus shares** the throne of supremacy with **no one**! He is either on the throne of our heart entirely or not at all.

He... is the King of Christmas, but He is also the King of compassion. The King of **LOVE**! That's a King **worth** both bowing to & worshipping with all you have, all you are.

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 have seen His star in the East and have **come to worship Him**.”

3 When Herod the king heard this, **he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him**. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

5 So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

6 ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come **a Ruler** Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”

7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 8 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**.”

9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, **the star** which they had seen in the East **went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was**. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 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.

12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

13 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.”

14 When **he arose, he took the young Child** and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “**Out of Egypt** I called My Son.”

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. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

18 “A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more.”

The Magi asked, “where is the king?” Herod asked, “where is the king?”. Both had very *different* motives.

Scripture said “in the days of Herod”. People then knew this meant... times of **severe oppression**, issues with government, pains, suffering, homelessness, refugees, injustices, abuse of power... Sounds **like today’s age!**

Maybe you’re asking where is the King of Christmas **this year**? It seems like justice, mercy and love don’t rule this nation! These **times are dark**, Covid19 has restricted the way we have known life, and has had a deep impact on us all. It goes without saying, 2020 will go down as a dark difficult year! How do we respond? How did the people of Matthew 2 respond? The bible is our base!

Herod was a **smart ruler**, a **wise builder**, aqueducts, and cities... **Herod's Temple**. “King” Herod was also very cruel, “not king”. He was so **brutal** that he **killed 3 of his own sons**, his **mother in law**, and his **favorite wife** (10). Why? He was insecure & fearful someone might **take his throne!** Imagine how He responds when men from the east come and ask, “Where is the new King?”

We are told the Magi, these out of town foreigners, followed the star/light that led them to the King they sought. They thought nothing that the King was just a baby. They **worshipped him** and lavished Him gifts. Bowed down before the baby King of Christmas. Magi respond in true worship, not Jews!

How does Herod respond? When Matthew tells us he was “**troubled**” understatement of the year... He was **irate, out of control**, and all of Jerusalem went down that insecure trail with him. So insecure... Herod **kills every male** child under 2 years old in and around Bethlehem when he finds out the Messiah king would come from there. 20-30 babies killed to eradicate the King of Christmas.

Joseph & family flee to Egypt. This account of injustice, homelessness reminds us just how **evil the world** is.

Ask the question.... Where does this kind of **evil come from** then and now? You could blame & point fingers all over the planet really. It’s the rich, poor, powerful, the weak greedy, the middle class, the government, the leaders, the followers....

King Herod’s **reaction** to the King of Christmas who threatening his throne was horror filled yet... is **the reaction of us all!** Darkness, a type of evil, lurks inside **every human heart**. The reality is that **every human heart is wicked** and deceptive.

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is more deceitful than all else & is desperately sick; Who can understand it?”

We all **want to be the king**, on our own throne, in charge Marge, **no one** can tell us what to do. What would you do if someone came along and said they wanted your throne, robe, and crown? Surely 2 kings can’t rule. You would kick the threat out, or die trying!

We are threatened by anyone **who wants to take control from us or over us**. It's true of us all.

Jesus sits on the throne alone, however.

God's **demand for the throne of our lives** actually causes every human **heart to resist God**. **Total allegiance** is what He demands in our hearts.

Matthew 10:37 ' 37 He who loves father or mother **more than Me** is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter **more than Me** is not worthy of Me.

Loves anything **more than me**... Not saying abandon your family, leave responsibility.... **1 Timothy 5:8, ESV: "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."**

What Jesus is saying, what He is revealing to us is; He wants to have **total importance** over your life in a way that it makes all **other commitments look like nothing** in comparison. He asks for absolute authority, unconditional loyalty. And this **triggers resistance** from every human heart. ("Don't Touch, wet paint", "No trespassing", "Stay off the Grass") We are actually haters of God....

Romans 8: 7-8 For the mind that is set on the flesh is **hostile to God**, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh **cannot please God**.ESV

Hostile, the word is opposite of agree, its hate.

Now Jesus wants to be the King of our lives, in a way that our lives will be absolutely complete, lacking nothing & absolutely enriched. But the problem is....There is a "**Little Herod**" in all of us, that just wants to **destroy anything** that comes up against our self ruling nature. **Even if our own self rule is destructive!!** Even if its the King who came to rescue you!

We can dismiss a **small threat** against us, but Jesus *threatens everything*. He demands to be Lord of every part of your life. No heart can accept that kind of demand on it's own. 7xs

Romans 3:10 as it is written: "**None** is righteous, no, **not one**; 11 **no one** understands; **no one seeks** for God. 12 **All** have turned aside; together they have become worthless; **no one** does good, **not even one**."

It's easy enough to agree that **no one is perfect**, righteous. But that **no one seeks after God?** Many people are searching....?!

Theologians put people into 2 categories of seekers ..

1.Those who **seek after the things God gives!** Joy, love, security, patience, a home, peace, forgiveness, losing shame guilt and pain, freedom from chains....

2. People seek after **God as they want him to be** to them. Not **as He is**, not the God of the Bible, or the King on a cross. The baby in a manger is okay, not the gory man on a cross. Not a God in **absolute authority** over my life.

Hidden truth of Christmas... This dark episode of Herod points to **our own natural resistance to God** and His rule in our lives. **We create gods** of our own liking to **mask our hatred** towards the true King.

If the little baby born in a manger on Christmas is the true King & it's true that none of us will actually seek Him without a supernatural calling on our hearts.... What about the magi? They were seeking him... Super star supernatural. Well the shepherds were seeking after Him,,, supernatural angel. Mary and Joseph.... Angels, supernatural.

Paul, surely, Paul the apostle, you mean the **Chrstian killer**, it took Jesus **smashing his sight** from his eyes in a **flash of light**. Talk about a "light dawning" by supernatural force!!!

We may **use religion to stay on the throne**, indebting God towards us for all our self righteous deeds, he owes me.... **you're on the throne** not Him. Works based belief, is belief that **God owes us something for our service**, or self denial. Its **hatred towards** the King when we think the King owes us something.

We may **run from religion**, claim loudly there is **no god**. Either way we are expressing **hostility** towards the lordship and authority of the true **King of Christmas!**

As Christians How can we be enemies with God **if we have peace with God?** Romans 6-8 tell us while here on earth, even believers will have a **residual anger** towards Him.

Why do you think it's so **hard to pray, read the Bible**, get to church?

Romans 7.15 15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Still a little king herod inside you until we are glorified and brought home to heaven.

This means you have to be far **more intentional about prayer**, the bible, & accountability to others to overcome bad habits and sin habits!!!

What about this King of Christmas?. Jesus doesn't behave like a king that the world expects, It's **foolish** that a king should come in a stable. **Seek not in courts, nor palaces. NO royal curtains draw. But search the stable, see your God extended on the straw.**

foolish the hero king should die But then what of the world's wisdom anyway?

1 cor 25 For the **foolishness of God is wiser than men**, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Nathaniel said.. Nazareth, can anything good come from there? John 1.46

Naz and Galilee were looked down on by all Judeans. Yet God arranged things that the Messiah, chosen, appointed savior of the world would come from Galilee...the wrong place to Jews. No good.

The world despises ppl from the wrong places, credentials. Yet, that is **exactly who God wants** to use, the rejected, despised, and weak. He doesn't often use ppl with pedigree and prestige... quite the opposite. Look at the disciples, a bunch of **podunk fishermen**, all from *Galilee*.

Why? Telling us **something about salvation**. Every other religion says **summon up strength**, be extra moral, try real hard to follow the rules... appeals to the strong & mighty.

Only Jesus says, ***I have come*** for the weak, the beaten up, those who admit they are weak. I will save them not by what they do but what I do”.

Throughout disciples' lives, they would ask Jesus, “**when are you taking the power back**”? He says “you don't get it guys, **I am going to die...to save the world**”. At the climax of his life, he ascends to a cross not a throne.

Harry Potter, horcrux have to be destroyed in order to beat Voldemort, the evil reigning power on earth, about to take over entirely. Horcrux have been destroyed,,, but **one last one must be destroyed** in order to defeat the evil of the world, Voldemort. Harry Potter reveals to his friends in the last movie's climax, that the last horcrux to be destroyed in order for the world to be saved... is inside of Potter. **He himself must die** so Voldemort's reign can end. He would give himself to save humanity...

Yet in the backdrop Harry had a resurrection stone, Yes he would die, to the horror of all Hogwarts, their Savior, the chosen one, was to die for them to be saved. Until Harry rose from the dead. The King of Christmas came to die so we can live.

Is HE just in a manger scene downtown? Is He in the story book alone? Is he still a refugee lost somewhere in Egypt still? Is the king of Christmas just in church or History books alone? Is the king of **your** Christmas just Christmas **spirit** or the hope of a better 2021? The King of Christmas is here, He's always been here, always will.

Is the King of Christmas the King of your heart today?

If He is, what do you do with a King Like that?

A king who would **lay His life down for yours**? A king that would **pardon your every fault & crime**? What do you do with a King who will always **lead you & your loved** ones to hope's door?

You bow down and worship Him! Worship Him with **all that you are**, not to earn His praise, but to acknowledge His ways!

What do you do with a King who welcomes you into the kingdom you hurled fire and rocks at? What do you do with a King who would lavish you with the **gift of Himself**, and the gift of **His eternal love**?

You **adore Him!** Adore Him with **all of your heart**, soul, mind, time, energy, and effort. Allow Him to rule over you, lead you beside still waters & green pastures!

What do you do with a daddy king who says He will **never leave you**, or **turn His adoring eyes** away from you, no matter what you do because He loves you with an everlasting love?

You **jump into His arms!**, and look deep into His eyes. Put all your trust in Him, lean upon Him, Give Him your allegiance. If you do, you will **find all wonder** and all love staring back at you, loving you... because the price for peace with God was already paid!

Only one to be worshipped as King.

1 Tim 6:15 which he **will display** at the **proper time**—he who is the blessed and **only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords**, 16 who **alone has immortality**, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. **To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.**

He is worth putting all your trust in because He alone has the everlasting eternal, never stopping, unfailing love for us. Unlike any earthly king.. ***THAT is a KING you can totally trust with all you are!***

What are you going to do with the King of Christmas this year? Allow Him to be the Lord of your life, display that He is the Lord of your life in your thoughts, actions, and words, day in and day out.

King

John 12:15

“Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, **your King is coming**, seated on a donkey’s colt.”

His is Another kingdom, another world, only One King!

John 18:36

Jesus answered, “**My kingdom** is not of this world. If **my kingdom** were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But **my kingdom** is not from the world.”

You are Beyond value and worth

“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” -Matthew 6:26

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” -John 16:33

Nothing can separate us from our King of life

Romans 8:38 “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Loved us in the darkest of our sins!

Ephesians 2:4 “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.”

Jesus was the King of the 1st Christmas. He is the King of Christmas this year, last year, and every year forevermore!

Love your King, bow to Him worship Him, let Him rule and reign in your life. He is the gift of Christmas, no other gift is so wonderful as Jesus!

CG Questions

1. Who were the two main non Jesus characters of the scriptures.
 - a. Describe the different reactions to the question...
“Where is the King?”
2. One of the common arguments against God is the question of bad things happening to kids or good people. Why do bad things happen in the world? Where does evil come from, 2 places. (Jeremiah 17 & John 10.10).
3. How does the human heart naturally want to deal with the authority of others, man, especially God? What evidence do you see of this in your own life? (Romans 8.7) Is this shocking to you, why?
4. Romans tells us no one seeks after God. Do yo think this is true. Look up Romans 3.10.
5. What are two reasons people actually are seeking for when they believe they are seeking God?
6. Jesus is the King Of Christmas! What does that mean to you