

# Christmas According to Matthew

## The Decision of a Lifetime

### Matthew 2:1-2ff

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brian Fannin / Dec. 19, 2021

#### Three possible responses when encountering the truth about Jesus:

##### I. Worship

**Matthew 2:2** “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.’”

God draws people from all nations to see what He is doing, to know the truth.

Jesus said those that worship God would do so in spirit and in truth. God invites you to worship Him. God wants you to see that the birth of Jesus is the arrival of the one deserving worship.

Christians gather and celebrate Christmas because we know that Jesus is the gift of what we ultimately need—a savior, born king who draws all that will trust Him to know the beauty of right standing with God through His life, death, and resurrection.

##### II. Indifference

Indifference is the opposite of worship and found in the passage in an ironic place: among the religious.

**Matthew 2:3-6** “When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> “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.”’”

###### A. Where life is complicated

These leaders knew that Herod is not a true Jew and their power was granted by his appointment. He was ruthless and violent, willing to do anything to protect his throne. It could be they were trying to be careful, but one thing we know, they took it no further. They reported what they knew and went back to their life, minding their own business.

###### B. Where life is comfortable

When need is unrecognized, you take no action. The religious leaders here do not follow the Magi to see what they have discerned.

### III. Hostility

**Matthew 2:2-3, 16** “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.’<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him...<sup>16</sup> he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.”

For King Herod, this statement and question is troubling. This announcement by these visiting dignitaries was more than news, it was a threat.

The Magi’s presence indicates that the door to knowing the true King is thrown open to all and His Kingdom reaches into every domain of existence.

Who is the king or queen of your castle? Who makes the rules for your life? Who influences what occurs the most? Is it the true King Jesus, or is there someone else on the throne of your life?

The meaning of Christmas is that what is good and precious in your life need not be lost and what is evil, misguided, and indifferent can be changed. Jesus came for you. He will save those that call on Him and worship Him as the Savior King.