

A New Kind of King
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Teaching Notes

A lot of us don't like to be told what to do.
We don't like it when someone else is in charge.
We don't want someone else making our decisions.

Some people avoid situations where they are not in control...
...they push back when people tell them what to do.

We like to be the king of our own kingdom.

And anyone who jeopardizes our kingship is a threat.

But what if someone was an **expert** in their field or a **professional** in their pursuit or an **influencer** in the area, and you knew **they cared about you** and actually wanted to help you?

Our reaction would probably be a little different...

Why? Because...

We know they care, they know **better** & they can **help** us.

...Those are the kind of people you can trust to follow, right?

Here is the **big idea** for today:

Jesus is the kind of king you can trust and follow.

Jesus is a new kind of king with a new kind of kingdom.

Title: A New Kind of King.

From Jesus' genealogy...we have seen the unlikely kind of people that God chooses to be in His kingdom.

From Jesus' parents...we saw the kind of qualities of people God uses in His kingdom...

— personal holiness, justice and mercy, faith and obedience.

Today we will see the kind of king Jesus is and the different kinds of responses people have to his kingship.

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.

Notice the time period... “in the days of Herod the king” 4 BC

...This is historical not mythical.

...The birth of Jesus is historical fact.

Let’s look at our characters...

...King Herod, the wise men & the newborn King, Jesus.

A little about Herod...

Herod was known as Herod the great.

He was rich, powerful, successful, productive and paranoid.

He renovated the temple and built impressive structures w/taxes

But when Herod was troubled, there was real trouble.

Herod and Jesus are both referred to as the king of the Jews.

1. Jesus is the king of the Jews.

But...Herod wasn’t going to let anyone or anything get in the way of his power and control.

Augustus the Roman Emperor said...

...”it was safer to be Herod’s pig than his son”.

Herod observed some Jewish laws, so he didn’t eat pork...

...But he was so ruthless he murdered his own family.

...He killed his wife, his brother, his mother in law, and 3 sons.

Can you just imagine how cold blooded you would have to be to murder your own family to hold onto power?

People become controlled by their own power and control...

...Power can be a crazy drug and addicts do crazy things.

People go to great lengths to stay in control or have the power.

...They attack, avoid, slander or just ignore...

I want to do what I want to do when I want to do it!

(Getting out of the pool or leaving the park can be a major ordeal!)

But even as grown ups we think like a 5 year old and say...

...You’re not the boss of me!

And even though we have heard Jesus is a good king.

...We are like the people in Jesus' parable who say...

..."We will not have this **MAN** reign over us!"

But that is the misunderstanding that creates the problem...

...We don't want him to rule over us because we think of Jesus as just another MAN, another teacher, another boss, another religious leader trying to gain a following or control us or take away our good life.

Jesus was not trying to gain a following...

Jesus was not on a power trip...

...Jesus came as a baby with love and humility to help us.

...Jesus came to seek and save, to give peace and life.

John 10:10 encompasses this idea well...

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

2. Jesus is the king of abundant life.

Herod didn't understand that and many people don't today!

You **will** need to lose your life...

... but you **will gain** His...and His is so much better!

Even though on the outside, Herod looked great...

...inside, Herod's life and family was a mess.

He hurt so many people in his grasping for control!

What if he would've surrendered...

...to the true king of the Jews!?

What if he believed Jesus was a king he could trust and follow?

>>> Next are the wise men...

...Three? Not necessarily. Kings? Not really.

3 gifts doesn't just mean 3 guys—maybe a procession of people.

The word for wise men is magi.

This has a wide context of astrologers, philosophers, scientists and magicians.

And they came from the East...possibly the area of Babylon.

...But...Why? Why would they come?

The Jews are God's chosen people, but...

...they were not impressive or important globally.

- They were conquered.
- They were small.
- They didn't have power or independence.

Why make such a long journey to see the king of the Jews?

Some think they were followers of God.

One very interesting idea is that these men had heard about the coming messiah from the legacy of **Daniel** who himself was a leader of wise men in Babylon 600 years earlier.

We know Daniel read the prophet Jeremiah from Daniel 9:2...

Jeremiah 23:5 “Behold, *the days are coming,*” says the Lord,
“That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness;
A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this *is* His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

3. Jesus is the king of righteousness.

Herod is troubled because he sees another king as a threat.

...But...

...the wise men see this new king as a chance to worship.

They don't come out of curiosity...

...They don't even come to seek favors...

...They come to worship.

They don't know all the details about Him...but they know enough

...Jesus is a king who does what is right.

...He acts in justice and goodness.

Jesus is a king you can trust and follow.

Herod will seek to destroy this king

...But the wise men seek to adore Him.

Herod thought Jesus would take from him...

...But the wise men knew better and came to give to Him.

Worship is a gift of respect, love & honor- literally kissing the hand

So...What do we know so far?

Jesus is the king of the Jews

He is the king of abundant life

He is the king of righteousness

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.' ”

4. Jesus is a shepherd king.

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.”

So at first it looks like Herod wants to worship Him also.
But Herod's true colors will show soon.

But here is something else we can learn about Jesus.

5. Jesus is the king that fulfilled prophecy.

Jesus fulfilled dozens of prophecies.

...some even before He was born!

This is a special kind of king...

...Jesus is the kind of king you can trust and follow.

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.

So here the wise men left Herod and behold!

The star is back!

The star is leading them.

Notice Jesus is not a baby but a young child.

And...they fall down and worship with exceedingly great joy.

Herod ends in horror, but these wise men live with great joy!

...The right response to the true king will result in great joy.

>>> The wise men bring Jesus three gifts and the gifts are instructive for us as we look to see what kind of king He is.

Each gift is costly and each gift speaks uniquely.

You can learn something about people from the gifts they get and give, right?

Gold, frankincense and myrrh...

Gold is for jewels and money, crowns and kings.

6. Jesus is the king of great royalty.

Frankincense was a common incense offered in the temple

Leviticus 2:2

He shall bring it to Aaron's sons, the priests, one of whom shall take from it his handful of fine flour and oil with all the frankincense. And the priest shall burn it as a memorial on the altar, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

7. Jesus is the king of divinity.

Jesus is not just an earthly king but a heavenly being.

He is God and He is worthy of worship.

He is able to hear your cry and receive your prayers.

Lastly is myrrh...this was maybe the strangest of the gifts.

It appears throughout the Bible...

Psalm 45 contains a beautiful description of the kind of king that Jesus is...a king you can trust and follow.

1 My heart is overflowing with a good theme;

I recite my composition concerning the King;

My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

2 You are fairer than the sons of men;

Grace is poured upon Your lips;

Therefore God has blessed You forever.

3 Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One,

With Your glory and Your majesty.

4 And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness;

And Your right hand shall teach You awesome things.

5 Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies; The peoples fall under You.

6 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;

A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness;

Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You

With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.

8 All Your garments are scented with **myrrh** and aloes and cassia, Out of the ivory palaces, by which they have made You glad.

Truth, humility, power, gladness, righteousness, authority...

What great qualities to trust and follow!

But even more is revealed in John 19...

Another place where myrrh appears in the New Testament.

38 After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus. 39 And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. 40 Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

Jesus garments were actually scented with myrrh!

...it was previewed at His birth and fulfilled at his death.

8. Jesus is the king that gave His life for you.

The anointed One, powerful and humble, righteous and good.

Full of gladness and joy

A just judge and a perfect king

He is divine and He is human.

And He was willing to lay down his life for **you!**

Do you see how much He loves?

He did it all so we could all be forgiven and cleansed and enjoy a real and right relationship with God in His kingdom.

Like Herod, you might think he is a threat to your freedom, you might think your way is best...

...but Herod's end was hurtful and horrible.

... hopefully today...

...you have seen Jesus is a king you can trust and follow.

What can we bring to this king?

Gold, frankincense and myrrh can give us direction...

We give Him our power, we offer our worship, we sacrifice our life.

...Because Jesus is the king you can trust and follow.

Discussion Questions:

Why is it important that we know the historical time of Jesus birth?

Can you identify with how Herod didn't want to have his "kingdom" threatened? What areas of life do you feel like you have to be in control? What areas do you need to trust Jesus with?

Why do you think the wise men came to seek Him? Would you have been willing to go the distance if you were them? Does seeking Jesus ever feel like a sacrifice? How do you respond?

What are your thoughts on the different prophecies of Christ's life? Why are these prophecies important to us?

If Jesus was born today, what gift would you give to Him? Why?