

Highway to the Manger Zone Part4: Which King?

Objective: To challenge us to imitate Jesus in serving others.

Read together:

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and 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.”

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

Matthew 2:1-3

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.

Matthew 2:16

Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Matthew 20:25-28

- When it comes to the Christmas season, what expectations do you have? Are they usually met or do you find yourself disappointed?
- How do you tend to react when you are disappointed and/or don't get your way? How would OTHERS say you react when you don't get your way?
- As followers of Jesus, a part of our calling is to be reshaping the world. What are some of the ways we can reshape our world by simply changing our expectations of others? What about changing our expectations of ourselves?
- One simple (not easy but simple) way to change our world is to imitate Jesus. Why do you think more Christians don't imitate Jesus?
- Jesus said that to be great in His kingdom, we must be willing to give of ourselves and serve others, regardless of the cost to us. How does that kind of life reshape our world?
- Can you think of specific situations or relationships where you need to change your expectation of receiving and instead make the choice to give? You don't to share that with the group, but what are you going to do about it.

Final Thought: King Herod's expectations went unmet and hundreds of innocents paid for it. King Jesus laid down his life to serve those who didn't deserve it. Which king will you imitate this Christmas season?

