

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Conquering King Herod

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
December 15, 2019



What is it that occupies your mind & imagination more than anything else?

Matthew 2:1-8 (NLT) Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking,² “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.” ³ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?” ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶ ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’” ⁷ Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸ Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

- **Jesus Christ threatens our sovereignty.**

- **All humanity is prone to idolatry - “the rival kings of the heart”.**

Romans 1:21, 25 (NLT) Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks... ²⁵ They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

- **Idolatry is not just a failure to obey God, it is setting our whole heart on something besides God.**

John Piper defines an idol as... “the thing loved or the person loved more than God, wanted more than God, desired more than God, treasured more than God, enjoyed more than God. It could be a girlfriend. It could be good grades. It could be the approval of other people. It could be success in business. It could be sexual stimulation. It could be a hobby or a musical group that you are following or a sport or your immaculate yard... It could be anything.”

Matthew 2:16 (NLT) Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance.

- **We seek to eliminate Christ's control through irreligion or religion.**

Big Idea: Worship King Jesus to conquer the rival kings in your heart.

Matthew 2:9-11 (NLT) After this interview [with Herod] the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

How do we apply this today?

- **Identify the “rival kings” in your heart.**

- What is it that occupies your mind and imagination more than anything else?
- How do you spend your money? (“Where your treasure is, there is your heart also”)
- What are you really living for? (What is your real – not just professed – God)?
- Where do you go for life and fulfillment more than Jesus (What is your functional saviour)?
- Identify your most uncontrollable emotions (i.e. anger, fear, or despair). Examine these emotions at their deepest root and you will likely find an idol.

- **Receive the grace of God for a cleansed heart.**

Ezekiel 36:25-27 (NLT) “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.”

- **Worship King Jesus with your whole heart.**

Jude 1:25 “All glory to him who alone is God, our Saviour through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.”

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT).



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Conquering King Herod #3 of 5 - Dec. 15, 2019

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you?

3) Read Matthew 2:1-8. In what way is the presence of Jesus creating a reaction? How does Jesus threaten our sovereignty?

4) Read Romans 1:21-25. What does this tell us about the human heart? How does this reveal itself in our culture?

5) Discuss the implications of the following quotes: *“Idolatry is not just a failure to obey God, it is setting our whole heart on something besides God.”* and *“an idol is the thing loved or the person loved more than God, wanted more than God, desired more than God, treasured more than God, enjoyed more than God. It could be a girlfriend. It could be good grades. It could be the approval of other people. It could be success in business. It could be sexual stimulation. It could be a hobby or a musical group that you are following or a sport or your immaculate yard... It could be anything.”* What is God saying to you in this regard?

6) Matthew 2:9-11. Contrast the response of Herod with that of the wisemen. How does worship “conquer the rival kings” in our heart?

7) Take some time to prayerfully reflect on these questions to identify the rival kings in your heart. What is it that occupies your mind and imagination more than anything else? How do you spend your money? (“Where your treasure is, there is your heart also). What are you really living for? (What is your real – not just professed – God)? Where do you go for life and fulfillment more than Jesus (What is your functional saviour)? Identify your most uncontrollable emotions (i.e. anger, fear, or despair). Examine these emotions at their deepest root and you will likely find an idol.

8) Reflect on the truth of Ezekiel 36:25-27 and Jude 1:25 and live this out.



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