

The Grinch That Almost Stole Christmas  
12.5..21

Matthew **2** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, <sup>1</sup>wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> 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."

<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod, when he had secretly called the <sup>6</sup>wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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."

<sup>9</sup> 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

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

<sup>13</sup> 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."

<sup>14</sup> When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> 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."

<sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup> saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup> Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

<sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

## I. Meet Herod The Grinch

Informed

Hungry (For power)

Murderer

Defeated

## II. Meet Satan the Grinch

Informed

I Peter 5:8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

Hungry (For power) Isaiah 14: <sup>13</sup> For you have said in your heart:

'I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

I will also sit on the mount of the congregation

On the farthest sides of the north;

<sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

I will be like the Most High.'

Murderer

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Defeated

Colossians 1:13 For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son,

## III. Satan leverages the messiness of Christmas against us

A. Satan loves to see chaos among people

Romans 12:18 Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

B. Satan loves to see us to busy.

Heb 10:25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Luke 10:38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

<sup>41</sup>"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,<sup>42</sup> but few things are needed—or indeed only one.<sup>[a]</sup> Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

**Matt 22:37**

**Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.**

C. Satan loves to see us in debt

Proverbs 22:7 The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.

**Matt 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

D. Satan loves to see us become self-reliant

What is the alternative to self reliance?????

Prayer/Word/Community

What are the results?

II Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Close: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," Peter