



The Grinch Who Stole Christmas

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There have always been Christmas thieves; those who have tried to destroy God's plan of redemption incarnated in Jesus birth. As in the time of Jesus birth, the Christmas thieves, the Grinches, are alive and active today.

Four categories of Grinches:

- **The Paranoid**

Read Matthew 2:1-18 (Message). Herod is an example of the paranoid - unreasonably anxious or suspicious - Grinch.

- 1. Why did the birth of Jesus make Herod anxious?**
- 2. Why does the birth of Jesus make people anxious today?**

- **The Too Busy**

Read Luke 2:1-7 (Message). The Inn Keeper is an example of the too busy. Most of us can fall into this Grinch category. We are not bad, just too busy to make room for Jesus.

- 3. What keeps our world too busy to make room for Jesus?**
- 4. What keeps you too busy to make room for Jesus?**

- The Self-Sufficient

Read Matthew 2:3-6 (Message). The chief priests and religious scholars are an example of the self-sufficient. They knew where the Messiah was to be born, however, saw no need to engage with the birth of Jesus.

5. What kept the religious leaders from seeing their need to engage with the birth of Jesus?

6. What keeps you from seeing your need to truly engage with the birth of Jesus?

- The Indifferent and Apathetic

Read Luke 4:16-22 (Message). The residents of Nazareth are the example of indifference and apathy. Their familiarity with Jesus kept them from seeing the significance of Jesus in their midst.

7. What made the residents of Nazareth familiarity with Jesus affect their understanding of who Jesus truly was?

8. How has your familiarity with the routines of Christmas affected your understanding and experience of what Advent and Christmas truly mean?

9. Are you seeing any ‘Grinchy’ tendencies in your view of Christmas? What will you do to understand and experience the true meaning of Christmas this year?