

HINTS OF HEROD

Pastor Chad Gilligan | July 31, 2022

Matthew 2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem

I. FOUR HINTS OF A HEROD HEART

Matthew 2:2 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.”

1. *When You Try to Be What You Are Not*

a.) It is a trap to try to win people’s approval by being what you are not.

Proverbs 29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

b.) It is a trap to try to make others think you are building for God when you are really just building for yourself.

Matthew 2:3-7 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’” ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

Matthew 2:8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

2. *When You Manipulate Others for Your Own Benefit*

a.) There is a fine line between worship and manipulation.

“When you come into this place, you will do one of two things. You will either worship or be critical of those who do.” — Maurice Lednický

b.) Be careful not to be snared by manipulating flattery.

Proverbs 29:5 Those who flatter their neighbors are spreading nets for their feet.

Proverbs 29:6 Evildoers are snared by their own sin, but the righteous shout for joy and are glad.

- Are they speaking words of life to you, or using words for leverage with you?

Matthew 2:13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

3. When You Tend to Overreact

a.) Do you jump to conclusions?

Matthew 2:16 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.

c.) Are you quick to anger?

- When I respond in anger, I am showing God that I don’t trust Him to handle the challenges in my life.

d.) Do you try to fix everything?

e.) Do you have to be in control?

Matthew 2:19-22 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead.” ²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee,

4. When Your Issues Start to Spread

- You must dethrone the little Herods when they try to become king in your life.

II. FOUR ANTIDOTES FOR A HEROD HEART

1. Learn To Be Content

Philippians 4:12-13 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

2. Choose to Lift People Up Instead of Tearing Them Down

Proverbs 25:6-7 Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence, and do not claim a place among his great men;⁷ it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here," than for him to humiliate you before his nobles.

Proverbs 11:25 A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Matthew 23:11-12 The greatest among you will be your servant.¹² For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

3. Build God's Kingdom and Not Your Own

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

4. Make Sure Jesus is the King of Your Life

Romans 10:9-10 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.