

LESSONS FROM THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

God's Power

11-27-22

Matthew 2:1-16 - After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." ³ 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 Christ 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 be the shepherd of my people Israel." ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. 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." ¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." 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.

Key: All Herod's power was _____ power.

Matthew 2:19 - After Herod **died**, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt...

Herod missed it. When Jesus came, Herod thought Jesus came to threaten him. Jesus really came to save him. Herod thought that Jesus came to make his life uncomfortable. Jesus really came to bring comfort. Herod thought that Jesus was going to steal his power. But Jesus came to give him real power.

Christmas is God's power in action!

Colossians 1:15-17 - He is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn over all creation**.¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 2:9 - For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form...

John 1:1-3 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was with God in the beginning.³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Hebrews 1:3 - The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

1. The _____ of God reveals the _____ of God and brings the _____ of God to your life.

When can I count on God's power?

2. When I'm afraid, when I'm uncomfortable, and when I'm _____.

Isaiah 40:28-29 - Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10- But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Three Steps to access God's power:

1. I must _____ my need.

1 Peter 5:6-7- Humble yourselves, therefore, **under God's mighty hand**, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

2. I must _____ into God.

John 15:5- “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man **remains in me** and I in him, he will **bear much fruit**; apart from me you can do **nothing**.”

3. I must _____ in faith.

Hebrews 11:1- Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.