

Rockford Reformed Church
Matthew 2:1-18 - “Kings in Conflict”
12/9/18 – Pastor Tim Meendering

Questions for family/small group discussions:

1. Read Psalm 39:6, Matthew 6:33, 16:18, 2:6, and 1 Thes. 2:19-20. What is God’s great concern for his and our “building” efforts? When you consider Matthew 2:6, Heb. 10:24-25, 3:12-14 and all the “one another” commands, how could you make a shift toward being a shepherd for one another?

2. We said that if you lead just one person into the kingdom of heaven, you have done more than Herod in all of his glory. Reflect back on your life—or just on this past week—and in which activities, accomplishments, and possessions would you say that you are building for self and in which are you building for God? What will you leave behind that will NOT last forever? Should you leave it behind or perhaps invest it into what is eternal today? What will you leave behind that WILL last into eternity? What changes could you make to shift increasingly toward investing in what will last forever?

3. In Matthew 2:3, we see that the people in Jerusalem were disturbed with Herod. And then we said that if we are religious and comfortable, we don’t want to be disturbed with the radical action that is required to follow Jesus. Jesus is a king who will disturb and mess up the comfortable life that you love and enjoy. As our church family goes through change that takes us increasingly outward to follow Jesus and draw people into the kingdom, what might be most disturbing for you/us?

4. The way of Herod was self-preservation and self-promotion and the way of Jesus is self-sacrifice and self-denial. How do these two ways show up in your heart and life? What must you absorb and believe to make progress toward becoming vulnerable, bold to risk, and push out with love? What could this look like in the coming week?

5. It was noted that we often elect leaders because they represent prosperity and stability (such as what Herod provided) rather than leaders who represent truth and justice. What we really need is a Savior because our greatest problem is sin. Jesus’ humility and love led him to sacrifice and spend himself so that he could promote and preserve you. If you humbly receive the patient, loving forgiveness of Jesus every day, how will this change you? What will be your approach to others? What would that look like in your relationship to your spouse, family members, friends, or co-workers?

6. Do you ever find yourself talking about the good you have done or are doing? Or are you quick to defend yourself? Why do you think that is the case? If your identity and reputation is found in relationship to your heavenly Father, how does that change things? Where does your glory come from?

Additional resources to consider:

- [The Dawning of Indestructible Joy: Daily Readings for Advent](#) by John Piper
- [Hidden Christmas](#) by Tim Keller

Rockford Reformed Church
Matthew 2:1-18 - “Kings in Conflict”
12/9/18 – Pastor Tim Meendering

Questions for family/small group discussions:

1. Read Psalm 39:6, Matthew 6:33, 16:18, 2:6, and 1 Thes. 2:19-20. What is God’s great concern for his and our “building” efforts? When you consider Matthew 2:6, Heb. 10:24-25, 3:12-14 and all the “one another” commands, how could you make a shift toward being a shepherd for one another?

2. We said that if you lead just one person into the kingdom of heaven, you have done more than Herod in all of his glory. Reflect back on your life—or just on this past week—and in which activities, accomplishments, and possessions would you say that you are building for self and in which are you building for God? What will you leave behind that will NOT last forever? Should you leave it behind or perhaps invest it into what is eternal today? What will you leave behind that WILL last into eternity? What changes could you make to shift increasingly toward investing in what will last forever?

3. In Matthew 2:3, we see that the people in Jerusalem were disturbed with Herod. And then we said that if we are religious and comfortable, we don’t want to be disturbed with the radical action that is required to follow Jesus. Jesus is a king who will disturb and mess up the comfortable life that you love and enjoy. As our church family goes through change that takes us increasingly outward to follow Jesus and draw people into the kingdom, what might be most disturbing for you/us?

4. The way of Herod was self-preservation and self-promotion and the way of Jesus is self-sacrifice and self-denial. How do these two ways show up in your heart and life? What must you absorb and believe to make progress toward becoming vulnerable, bold to risk, and push out with love? What could this look like in the coming week?

5. It was noted that we often elect leaders because they represent prosperity and stability (such as what Herod provided) rather than leaders who represent truth and justice. What we really need is a Savior because our greatest problem is sin. Jesus’ humility and love led him to sacrifice and spend himself so that he could promote and preserve you. If you humbly receive the patient, loving forgiveness of Jesus every day, how will this change you? What will be your approach to others? What would that look like in your relationship to your spouse, family members, friends, or co-workers?

6. Do you ever find yourself talking about the good you have done or are doing? Or are you quick to defend yourself? Why do you think that is the case? If your identity and reputation is found in relationship to your heavenly Father, how does that change things? Where does your glory come from?

Additional resources to consider:

- [The Dawning of Indestructible Joy: Daily Readings for Advent](#) by John Piper
- [Hidden Christmas](#) by Tim Keller