

MISSING CHRISTMAS

Message 3 Indifferent Religious Leaders

Perry Duggar
December 17, 2017

► Outline

Today's Message based on Matthew 2:1-8.

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

Matthew 2:3-4 (NLT)

A. Introduction (Matthew 2:3-4)

B. How the religious leaders displayed indifference: (Matthew 2:1-3)

1. Dispassion about the _____.
(Matthew 2:4-6. C/R: Matthew 15:8)

2. Disinterest about _____ the Savior.
(Matthew 2:7-8. C/R: Matthew 9:12-13)

3. Determination to retain _____.
(Matthew 15:9; John 5:39-40)

Answers: 1. Messiah 2. seeking 3. control

Resource Information: Unless otherwise noted, outline and onscreen verses are from NLT version (New Living Translation) of *The Holy Bible*. C/R, if noted, refers to a 'cross reference' of Scripture verse(s). Today's outline and discussion guide are available to mobile device users through the Brookwood Church app available through your favorite app store.

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► Discussion Guide

Use this guide with friends or on your own to pursue your relationship with Jesus. Take time to reflect, learn and talk with God. Find a Small Group at brookwoodchurch.org/smallgroups.

Conversation Starter

When it comes to miracles, are you more skeptical or ready to believe? Why?

Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

Read [Matthew 2:1-8](#).

1. Why did Herod ask the religious leaders “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born”? ([v.4](#))
2. Why is it significant that Jesus was born in Bethlehem? (see [Micah 5:2](#))

Verse 3 indicates that everyone in Jerusalem was disturbed that the wise men were looking for the *newborn king of the Jews*.

3. Why would the religious leaders be disturbed by this news?
4. Why do you think the religious leaders didn’t go to Bethlehem to investigate this for themselves?
5. Why did Herod ask the wise men, and not the religious leaders, to search for the newborn king in Bethlehem?
6. When has God seemed the most real, the most tangible, the most *near* to you?

Read [Romans 15:13](#).

7. How is God described in this verse?
8. According to this verse, what is God’s desire for us?
9. What step can you take to know Jesus better?

Communicate with God

Offer prayers of thanks to Jesus for coming near to the pain, conflict and brokenness of the world. Thank Him for specific ways He’s revealed Himself to you and worked in your life.

Soul Training

Ask God, *what is the first thing you want me to **know** today, and the first thing you want me to **do** today?* Sit in silence for at least a minute to see what He puts in your mind.

Memory Verse

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

[Matthew 2:3-4 \(NLT\)](#)

Daily Reading

Day 1: [Psalm 145:8-12](#)

Day 4: [Psalm 147:1-6](#)

Day 2: [Jeremiah 29:13](#)

Day 5: [Hebrews 10:19-25](#)

Day 3: [Galatians 3:26-29](#)

Prepare for Next Sunday

Read [Luke 2:1-20](#) to prepare for the December 24 message about “A Reluctant Shepherd” as we celebrate Christmas Eve and conclude the *Missing Christmas* series.



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