

BEGIN AGAIN—Part 1 “Herod”

Matthew 1:18-2:23

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1. For God to have relationship with fallen humanity is condescension on a scale we cannot imagine (Philippians 2:6-7; Psalm 113:5).
2. 2:2-3 What one person sees as an invitation, another sees as an interruption.
3. 2:3 When Herod freaked out, the city responded likewise because they knew his reputation. Herod's reaction to God's activity affected everyone else. It is always about more than what God is doing in just your life.
4. 2:3 People watch when disruptions come your way to see how you respond.
5. 2:3 At this point, Herod was in his 70s and near the end of his life. He was extremely paranoid about his power.
6. 2:1 This venture had major significance, otherwise the magi would never have taken the risk of traveling so far.
7. 2:1 Politically and militarily, Rome was scared of this mighty eastern empire.
8. 2:4 Herod had access to all the knowledge of Rome yet chose to bring in religious advisors. He knew enough to realize he was dealing with something from God, not man.
9. 2:5-6 Herod took this prophecy seriously because he knew what many ignore today: When God says something is going to happen, it is going to happen.
10. 2:5-6 Knowledge of Scripture does not in itself lead to knowing Jesus.
11. 2:4-6 Herod was a person who only wanted just enough of God to serve his own purposes.
12. 2:7 Why secretly? Because his advisors knew him as ruthless and brutal. He was already plotting a massacre.

13. 2:16 Herod not only rejected God's activity, but He set himself against God.

14. 2:17-18 Herod's actions were the fulfillment of a prophecy made 400 years earlier (Jeremiah 31:15).

The real Christmas story is that everyone is invited to begin again. How we respond is up to us.

God's invitation is consistent. Throughout life, He brings opportunities to either begin a relationship with Him or to grow in the relationship you already have with Him.

GREEK WORDS

Tarassō (tar-as'-so)—to stir or agitate (roil water) :- trouble

QUOTES

“...it's better to be one of Herod's dogs than to be one of his children!”
~Augustus Caesar

“God's invitation for you to join Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action. As a result, you must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.” ~Dr. Henry Blackaby

