



ALL SAINTS
PRESBYTERIAN

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

FOR ALL SAINTS SMALL GROUPS

“Praying the Psalms for a King” | Rev. Jordan Griesbeck | October 7, 2018

MATTHEW 2:1-12

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Intro Question

Jordan asked us to consider what happens when we come into contact with a true king. Have you ever come into contact with someone powerful? How did you react? How did this meeting change you or inspire you?

Background

When we come into contact with the true King, we have two options. We can choose to rage against Him or to take refuge in Him. Raging against the true King, as Herod chose to rage against the baby king born in a stable, comes from a desire to live as we want, to not let God have a say in our lives.

It seems that our world is built on anger and rage and we are a part of that raging. We want things God doesn't want for us. God's King will always feel like our enemy if our anger is over something we think we deserve or something we want and don't have.

But to take refuge in the true king leads us to a way to live a better life. We can serve the king with reverence like the magi. We can rejoice and honor the king. We can be blessed by taking refuge in him.

When we come into contact with the true King, if we make the choice to not rage but to take refuge, we will be different from the rest of the world. We will be known by our laughter, by our meekness and by our refusal to conform and follow the kings of the earth. Because it's impossible to come into contact with the true King and not be changed.

Read Matthew 2:1-12 aloud.

Discuss:

- 1.) What often makes you angry? Is your anger directed against evil or are you angry over something you want, but do not have?
- 2.) How is Jesus different from the kings of the world?
- 3.) Does it feel easier to rage against the true king or to take refuge in him?
- 4.) How might our lives change if we pray Psalm 2?

Conclusion/Application

In C.S. Lewis's final book of his Narnia series, *The Last Battle*, King Tirian and his army are pushed back by the enemy army to a stable. Their only choice is to enter or die, so they enter the stable to find it is a whole new world. The inside of the stable is bigger than what we see on the outside. Taking refuge in the stable, while it might seem like an uncertain path, will lead to something greater than you could have imagined.

Father—Gently teach our hearts to stop raging against you. Remind us that your plan for us is perfect and that you will provide for us all that we need if only we will take refuge in you. Help us to be people who pray Psalm 2—who are meek and who conform only to your law and your way. And change our hearts as we come into contact with You, the true king. In Jesus's name, Amen.

