

WORD

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and 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.” ³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

Matthew 2:1-3

The news of Jesus’ birth gathered various responses from people. Though many were joyful about it, Herod who was king at the time reacted differently. In this lesson, we will look more closely at Herod’s response and how we should receive the Good News in our lives.

- **We should trust instead of feel threatened.**

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Herod was appointed king of Judea by the Roman Senate. He was an able leader but was not a Jew. He felt insecure and threatened when he heard about the coming of the real “King of the Jews,” thinking his throne could be taken away from him. Sadly, Herod missed out on meeting the Person who could give him fullness of life (John 10:10). Do you see Jesus as someone who might take away things that you value from you? Why do you trust Him?

- **We should experience life in Jesus, not just hear about it.**

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He 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.”

Matthew 2:7,8

Herod sent the Magi to check if Jesus was indeed born. Since he did not go to see for himself, he missed out on the chance to experience being in Jesus’ presence. Scripture tells that those who personally came to see Jesus were filled with gladness (Luke 2, Matthew 2), touched, and changed. What did it take for your life to be changed by Jesus?

- **We should welcome Jesus and not resist Him.**

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.

Matthew 2:16

Because he saw Jesus’ birth as a threat, Herod responded harshly. This resulted to the death of many male toddlers in and around Bethlehem. Had he only known that he himself will benefit from Jesus’ coming, he would have not done this. How have you resisted Jesus in some areas of your life? What happened when you opened your life to Him?

SO WHAT

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- What is one thing that hinders you to trust Jesus more? How do you plan to deal with it?
- What could be the reason why you would rather have someone give you a second-hand report about Jesus instead of experiencing Him yourself? What can you look forward to in having a personal relationship with Jesus?
- How do you welcome Jesus in your life? What habits, lifestyle, or thinking do you think you need to give up?

NOW WHAT

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- This week, ask advice from someone within your group on how to strengthen your trust in God even more. What habits can you develop to cultivate your trust in God?
- What can you start doing so that your relationship with Jesus becomes more personal? What thinking do you need to give up so you will approach God confidently?
- Recount how Jesus has changed your life. Prepare this as a story which you can share with someone in the next few days. How will you encourage that person to have a relationship with God?