



## *"In the Days of Herod the King"*

Roger Ellis | Lead Pastor  
Matthew 2:1-8, p. 676

Matthew's version of the Christmas story begins this way, "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King." Herod is the bad guy in the Christmas story. Who was this King Herod? Why is he important to the Christmas story?

### In light of all this, how do I worship fully, like the Magi?

1. To worship fully is to *search for and pursue* (2:1-8)
2. To worship fully is to take the risk to *go public* (2:1-4)
3. To worship fully is to genuinely express *joy and humility* (2:10-11)
4. To worship fully is to *sacrificially give* (2:11)
5. To worship fully is to *obey* (2:12)

**The one thing:** Herod is in the Christmas story to *confront me, with me!*

**Miss something?** Completed sermon notes are available online. Binders to organize your sermon notes are available at the upstairs Welcome Desk.

## NEXT STEPS

- Memorize Matthew 2:1-2.
- Go to RightNow Media and search "Experience Herodium."
- Take your next step for Advent Conspiracy.
- Google Ray Vander Laan "In the Shadow of the Herod."

## NOTES FOR PERSONAL & SMALL GROUP STUDY

### 1 KEEPING IT REAL

When was the last time you were deeply troubled by the possible reaction of someone else? How would it potentially fit into Matthew 2:3?

### 2 LOOK AT THE BOOK

Discuss the interactions of the characters in Matthew 2:1-8. Based upon the observed reactions, who may you be most like in this portion of the Christmas story?

### 3

Contrast Matthew 2:9-12 with Luke 2:22-39. Who in these passages is our best guide to conspire to worship fully?

### 4 TAKING IT FURTHER

What will you do to conspire (contrive, unite, combine forces to develop a plan) this Advent to worship fully the One who is the reason for the season? How can we give Jesus the present of our presence?