



HEROD – Rejected Faith (Matthew 2)

The Gospel of Matthew was written in order to reveal the _____ of Jesus Christ. Matthew presents this case by first producing the pedigree of the king. 44 names are listed, taking us back to this One being the son of Abraham and the rightful heir to the throne of David. Matthew refers to the prophecies of the king to further make his case (1:22).

As we turn to Matthew 2 we discover that Matthew continues to unroll the proofs of Christ's kingship and now introduces us to the people who saw the king. We read of _____ who came from the East and _____ in Jerusalem that heard about Him and even knew where he'd be born. But it was the _____ in this story that we call our attention to today. Of all those characters described in Matthew 2 it was Herod who felt _____ by the royal birth of the King of kings. King Herod's animosity and anger is going to spill all over Matthew 2.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS THREATENS THE _____

History remembers Herod as the "Paranoid Tyrant." And so it was when the wisemen came to Herod and told him of the one "born king of the Jews" (2:2), Herod was greatly "_____."

A. Insecure people are _____ people

It is no wonder that all Jerusalem was troubled when Herod was troubled. You didn't want to cross Herod or make him upset. He was intensely insecure, supremely jealous and could be wickedly cruel. So it was that Herod _____ his own brother in law and _____ his own mother in law. Later in life, when he felt threatened that his throne would be taken from him he killed his _____ and his _____. When Herod heard of this little baby born "King of the Jews" he felt threatened.

B. Insecure people are _____ people

Jesus was born "in the days of Herod the King" (2:1). At this time everyone was fixated on Herod and his monumental accomplishments. Herod had more power, and more money, than anyone in the land. He lounged in luxury that still amazes us 2,000 years later. He lacked for _____ and yet he missed _____. It is insecure people who lay up all the treasures around them like Herod did. Herod had all everything he could ever want and yet he still missed _____.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS THREATENS THE _____

The person the wisemen were looking for frightened Herod because it threatened to expose him as an imposter.

A. Herod was a hypocrite by _____

Herod was an Edomite, the son of Esau, and as such he had no royal Jewish blood and no rightful claim to the throne. When he became governor of Judah he married Miriamne (a Hasmonean Jew) in an effort to affiliate with Jewish royalty. So when Herod heard that Jesus was "_____ King of the Jews" (2:2) he was not a happy camper.

B. Herod was a hypocrite by _____

As Herod reasoned that his perch of power was being targeted he *acted* the hypocrite. He sent the Wisemen to Bethlehem and said, "When you have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and _____ him also" (2:8). Really Herod? You can almost see his sly smile as he said that. Even this Christmas there will be those who hate Jesus but will still paint a smile on their face when they _____ Christmas carols.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS THREATENS THE _____

If you had to sum up the life of Herod in one word you'd probably use the word "_____." Herod was motivated by pride above all else.

A. Your prideful rejection will impact _____

In verse 16, Matthew records that when Herod saw that he was mocked by the wise men he did the unthinkable. He ordered the murder of innocent babies. Listen carefully to the application of this text. Your rejection of Jesus will impact the _____. I hope you never get over that!

B. Your prideful rejection will _____ your _____

Herod was as far from the faith as he could get, even though it appears that God had gone to tremendous lengths to make sure Herod _____ the news. He died a _____ sinner who could have known the _____. He was a temporary king who thought he could fight the _____ King. He was a troubled man who had rejected the Prince of Peace.

Concluding Thoughts

Because Herod felt threatened he missed Christmas altogether. But there were in the same region those who found Christmas. None were quicker to the manger bed than the _____. Herod had all the money in the world while the shepherds lived in poverty. Herod lived in _____ while the shepherds lived in the _____. Herod was surrounded by people who told him right where the boy was to be born and was even visited by foreign experts who told him Christmas was upon him. And yet it was the _____ who found Christmas, and the _____ who missed it.