

WE THREE KINGS

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Focus When we worship and give control of our lives to the Just King, we experience abundant life.

Open What was your favorite experience during this Christmas season?

Read There are three types of kings represented in the Christmas story: the joyous kings (the Magi), the jealous king (King Herod) and the Just King (Jesus). When the wise men arrived to worship the young Child, they “fell down” to worship Him (Matthew 2:11). “Fell down” does not mean to bow, but to fall violently; to be broken and shattered. Their response to the presence of Jesus was worship and extravagant giving. Likewise, we’ll have the kind of encounter with God that He wants us to have when we respond to His presence with worship and extravagant giving.

The difference between living as a “joyous king” or a “jealous king” is whether or not we will worship the Just King.

King Herod operated in a spirit that was in direct contrast to the spirit of Christ. The Herodian spirit, which still exists today, seeks to gain and keep control and get one’s own way. It’s an insecure, self-pleasing, manipulative spirit. However, Jesus—the Just King—demonstrated just the opposite, choosing to become dependent upon His creation and ultimately sacrificing Himself for them. He rose again as a conquering King, and He is able to conquer any form of bondage in our lives.

Talk

1. Imagine yourself arriving to worship the King in the Christmas story. How do you think you would respond to physically being in the presence of the Savior? Describe a time when, like the wise men, you felt “completely undone” in the presence of God.

2. How are worship and extravagant giving related? Why does meeting Jesus always cause us to respond with worship and extravagant giving?
3. Why can't we have the kind of encounter with the King of Kings that He wants us to have until we give extravagantly of ourselves and our "treasures"?
4. How would you describe the "Herodian spirit," and can you name some examples from today? What are the root causes of a Herodian spirit? How is the spirit of Jesus opposite to the Herodian spirit?

Live

1. How do you respond when you consider that Jesus set aside His power to become dependent upon the humans He created; that He was born to die for us?
2. In what area(s) of your life are you holding on to have control? If you realize that you haven't allowed Jesus to "take the reins" of your life, take a few minutes to turn over control to Him through prayer.

Pray

Thank God for sending His Son as our Savior. Confess any areas you have withheld from Him or others in an effort to protect yourself or retain control, and ask Him to take over in those areas. Worship Him as a group, expressing your thanksgiving for His goodness, love, abundant life, etc.