



## Keep It Simple

### Matthew 2:1-20 |

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## RELATED PASSAGES

Isaiah 60:1-6 | Psalm 93:1

## SUMMARY

*Let's contrast the magi and Herod for a moment...*

- **The Magi honored Jesus as their King; therefore the living of life became very simple.**

- *When they SAW THE STAR: they re-arranged their schedule (time), they applied what they knew (talent), and they prepared their gifts (treasure). For them life got simple: it was about honoring the King as their King. Jesus was at the Center.*

- **Herod honored himself as his King; therefore the living of life became very complex.**

- *He was called "Herod the Great" because he was SUCCESSFUL IN HIS JOB (he built buildings/cities, rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, and managed to keep the peace between Jerusalem and Rome his whole rule).*
- *But his HOME WAS A MESS. He had 10 wives - each producing sons that were scheming to succeed him. This made for lots of drama: Herod killed 3 of his sons on suspicion of treason; he put his favorite wife to death, and killed his mother-in-law, and several uncles/cousins. A real family man!*
- *He wasn't exactly a RELIGIOUS man either. He invited the high priest down to Jericho for a swim, and during a rough game of water polo he drowned him.*
- *And he became a MENTALLY UNSTABLE man. At the end of his life he knew he was dying from disease; he has his soldiers round up hundreds of civic leaders and imprison them in the hippodrome with instructions that the moment he dies they too are to die. Why? So everybody will mourn his death. Thankfully when he died, they didn't carry out his last request.*

- **The question for us is: WHO will we honor as King in our own lives? Us or Christ?**

## GROUP QUESTIONS

- What does this passage tell us about God?
- What does this passage tell us about people?
- What else can we discover/wonder at/learn from this passage?
- How might God be calling you to shift your focus this Advent?