

# Matthew 2

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## SERMON NOTES

### Matthew

The King and His Kingdom

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A Tale of Two Kings and Two Kingdoms

- **Two Kings:** Herod the Great vs. Jesus the Servant King
- **Two Kingdoms:** the kingdom of this world vs. the kingdom of heaven

### Two Kings

Herod the Great vs. Jesus the Servant King

- **Herod the Great:**
  - Lived in a palace with all the privileges and power of the Roman Empire
  - Came to power via appointment by the mighty Roman Empire
  - Earthly power and authority; cruel tyrant and control freak
  - Character marked by narcissistic self-obsession, fear, paranoia and violence
  - Died in infamy, his earthly kingdom completely dismantled
- **Jesus the Servant King:**
  - Born in a stable, grew up in obscurity, never owned a home
  - Invaded His creation by Divine appointment as baby born to a poor Jewish couple. Immanuel/God with us, Messiah, Life and Light, King of the Jews, Prince of Peace, Lord of Lords and King of Kings
  - Heavenly power and authority; miracles, wisdom, compassion, truth and grace
  - Character marked by selflessness, humility, love and kindness
  - In His death He gave His life for others. His death began the Great Reversal. His kingdom will have no end.

### Two Kingdoms

the kingdom of this world vs. the kingdom of heaven

- **Kingdom of this world:**
  - Overcome by darkness, violence, poverty, oppression, injustice, evil, cruel loss and crushing grief
  - Dominated by the privileged and powerful
  - Populated by the self-serving

- Disabled by the increasingly competitive struggle for position and power
- **Kingdom of heaven:**
  - Rescued by the Light of the World who has dispelled the darkness and now offers eternal life to all who repent and believe in Him. The redeemed of God live their lives on a pilgrimage of joyful worship.
  - Ruled by a Servant King
  - Populated by a diversity of people from every nation, social, educational and economic background.
  - Invigorated as the formerly wrecked and ruined, now redeemed people of God who eagerly gather to worship and follow their Servant King, Jesus.

**Wisemen and shepherds still seek Him.**

**Whatever way you come to Jesus, you always leave another way.**

*“Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself founded empires; but upon what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ alone founded His empire upon love, and at this hour millions of men would die for Him.”*

- Napoleon Bonaparte

*“Only a faith forged out of suffering can say with conviction that the angels and monsters will not coexist forever, that the agonies of the victims will someday be rectified, and that the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ will be the Last Word.”*

- Fleming Rutledge, *Means of Grace*

*“It should be obvious by now that putting on the new nature is far more radical than attitude adjustments and behavior modifications. The life hidden with Christ in God is one of such growing union with God in love that God’s presence becomes the context of our daily life, God’s purposes become the matrix of our activities, and the values of God’s kingdom shape our life and relationships; God’s living presence become the ground of our identity, the source of our meaning, the seat of our value and the center of our purpose.”*

- M. Robert Mulholand, Jr.

*“You do not come to see who you really are until you come to see who Jesus really is...Anyone who will not see Jesus as He truly is will always make more of themselves than they truly are.”*

- Pastor Charlie Dates