

Herod's Reaction to The Birth of Jesus

Matt. 2:1-18

Introduction:

- A. Herod the Great was more cruel than great. (Began 37 BC).
- B. Herod the Great's reaction to news Jesus was not great.

Discussion:

II. He Reacted With An Assumption. (vs. 1-3).

- A. He heard "King of Jews" - assumed political king, a threat to him.
 - 1. Jews assumed political kingdom. (Jno. 6:15).
 - 2. Disciples assumed political kingdom. (Matt. 20:20-22; Mk. 10:35-38).
 - 3. Premillennialists assume political kingdom.
 - 4. Pilate assured of non-political nature of kingdom. (Jn. 18:36).
- B. People today hear something and then assume things not so.
 - 1. Hear "water baptism", assume "water salvation." (cf. 1 Peter 3:20,21; Acts 10:46, 47).
 - 2. Hear "O.T. law done away", assume "Don't believe in O.T.".
 - 3. Hear "Church not to support Orphan Homes", assume "Don't believe in orphan care" (cf. James 1:27).

III. He Reacted Dishonestly. (vs. 7-8).

- A. Truth would not serve purpose - so gave noble reason for wanting to know where Jesus was.
- B. Hypocrites know truth not serve purpose, so give "acceptable" reasons.
 - 1. Factious men say they act "for good of church."
 - 2. One offended by truth seldom complains "he got on my toes".
- C. Christians can be above board about purposes and intentions. (2 Cor. 4:1-2).
 - 1. No need to slip up on people to "convert" them.
 - 2. No place for "cat and mouse game" in evangelism.

IV. He Reacted Excessively. (v. 16).

- A. He panicked when security threatened - order ALL children under 2 killed.
- B. We panic when security threatened by word or deed - do much harm.
 - 1. No need to pull all teeth to cure one tooth-ache; pull bad one.
 - 2. No need to over react to problems (church or personal), calmly sort out and deal with it.

V. He Reacted Vainly.

- A. In vain because Jesus was no threat. (cf. Grandpa King and bulldog)
- B. In vain because God's purpose could not be defeated.

Conclusion: Let us learn:

- A. Get all the facts before we react.
- B. Keep our designs above board.
- C. Calmly and reasonably react to threats - real of imagined.
- D. We cannot defeat God's way, submit to it.