



December 28, 2014

When Men Encounter a King
The Christmas Epilogue
Matthew 2

Introduction

The wise men now come and present their gifts to the Messiah. Before this, Mary and Joseph experienced visitations from angels, Elizabeth, the shepherds, and Simeon. All of this was great comfort. However, in the realm of all these prophecies being fulfilled, an angel visits Joseph again for them to flee to Egypt from the danger of King Herod's proclamation to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under.

Discussion Questions

1. In conclusion to the series "When Men Encounter a King", which of the weeks' themes was most meaningful to you? **Star** - we are hardwired for hope; **Paranoid King** - Jesus brings us peace; **Baby King** - Jesus is our source of joy; **400 Years of Silence** - God broke the silence with Christ's birth.
2. This week's sermon focused on the three main characters: The Angel of the Lord, Joseph, and Herod.
Angel of the Lord - greatest need is to listen to God. There are three ways to hear from God.
 - Anticipate that God wants to speak to you.
 - Pull away from your schedule and demands (unplug).
 - Saturate your soul with God's Words.

What hinders you the most from listening to God?

Joseph - greatest pursuit is to be dependable for God. There are three questions to consider.

- Am I consistent in my faith?
- Am I looking for ways to please God?
- Am I living life with open hands or am I holding tightly to other things?

Are there any other questions you might want to include?

Herod - greatest challenges in life will not overcome you; God prevails. There are three things you can do.

- Focus on the big picture. Every season eventually passes and God promises to see us through.
- Overcome evil with good.
- Grab hold of an anchor for you soul.

What difficult circumstances are you facing as you move forward into the New Year?

3. Which character's lesson is most needed in your personal life in 2015? What specific step(s) will you take in January to take action on the life lesson?

Conclusion

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." Romans 8:28