

## A Legacy of Worship

Matthew 2: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi[a] from the east came to Jerusalem **2** and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

**3** When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

**6** “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.’[b]”

**7** Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

**9** After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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**16** When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. **17** Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

**18** "A voice is heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more."<sup>[d]</sup>

- 1) When you think about the legacy of the Magi versus the legacy of Herod, consider your own life. How do you want to be remembered? What do you think you'll be known for? Think about what your legacy might be shaping up to be, and journal a prayer to God about that. Consider, are there individuals at OVCC that you want to disciple and mentor?
- 2) Offer up to Jesus your true worship. Do something secretly, privately, just between you and God sometime between now and New Year's Eve. Maybe take a walk alone, in the dark, to connect with him. Perhaps write him a long letter asking him questions on your heart and listening for answers (write those down too if you hear them). If you have a terrible singing voice, but still enjoy singing, sing him a song that is meaningful to you. Do something this Christmas that is actually just between you and the Lord.
- 3) If there are people in your life who are a bit like King Herod, take the time to pray for them. Surrender to God your heart, which might feel responsible or burdened for them. Acknowledge that there are people out there whose reactions and responses to God are beyond your influence and control. If it helps you, write out a prayer of surrender and relinquishment of them to God. If you feel led to communicate to them in some way, so be it. But if not, do the work of discharging and entrusting them to the Lord, who alone can judge and rule over them - shepherding them - with perfect love, justice, and mercy.