

**Herod (Matthew 2:1- 8, 12, 16-18)**  
**What Child Is This? sermon series**  
**By Brian Croyle, 12.10.17**

**BIG IDEA:** Herod saw Jesus as a threat to be mitigated. Do you? Who is the focal point of your life?

Herod's story – his response to the news about Jesus

- Fear, manipulation, deception, madness (Matthew 2)

Seeing our story in Herod's story – where do we feel threatened?

- Rule / control / independence (James 4:13-16)
- Lifestyle / comfort
- "Goodness" / self-righteousness (Romans 3:9-12, Romans 5:6-8)

Collateral Damage – The Church and the Gospel

- "The world doesn't believe that we believe what we say we believe."
- Profile of the Lukewarm

Eternal Perspective

- A serious call (Luke 9:23-26)
- An abundant life (John 10:10, Matthew 11:28)

**MY NEXT STEP:** *When I think about giving myself fully to Jesus, are there lingering doubts about how my life might change? What facets of my life feel "threatened" by the decision to follow Jesus, and how can I trust him more in those parts of my life?*

## QUESTIONS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD:

1. Read Matthew 2. How does Herod's response to the birth of Jesus shock or surprise you? Do you see yourself at all in his failings?
2. Think about what priorities drive your life and your decisions. Are you willing to surrender some of your independence to God? What lifestyle changes might you need to consider, and are you willing to let God show you where your attitudes and behaviors need to be refined?
3. What do you need to yield – your self-rule, your comfort, your reputation – to the Jesus who was born, lived, died, and raised to life that you could live eternally in his love?
4. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have an abundant life." He also said, "come to me... and I will give you rest." If you were honest with yourself, do you feel that your life is "abundant" – that you have real meaning and purpose? Do you feel at peace with God, or is there any nagging worry that your life doesn't measure up?
5. No matter where you are, God always offers his love and grace to you. If you feel that you haven't been following Jesus the way you should, can you accept His embrace of forgiveness? Can you let today be a new day, knowing that you are a "new creation" in Christ?