



## PART 2: THE ORIGINAL GRINCH

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### Sermon Notes

**Text: Matthew 2:1-23**

#### Introduction:

King Herod (Matthew 2) is the original Grinch/Scrooge - a grumpy, Christmas hater. But unlike the Grinch, or Scrooge, he did not experience a personal transformation.

What are the attitudes we bring to Jesus, and how do we experience personal transformation?

#### 1. Disturbed

v. 3 “Herod...was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.”

Herod was disturbed because he knew the birth of Jesus would ruin everything he had built for himself.

Jesus will always birth himself into the oppressive regime of sin to start a coup.

#### 2. Indifferent

The chief priests and teachers of the law were indifferent to the news of the birth of a messiah.

Matthew 2:4-6  
Micah 5:2

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The religious leaders heard the news of the messiah, and they knew the prophecy about where he was supposed to be born, yet they did not go check it out for themselves.

Sometimes we are too busy celebrating Christmas to celebrate Christ...too busy with the holidays to be holy.

#### 3. Devoted

Matthew 2:1-2  
Numbers 24:17  
Revelation 15:3-4

The Gentiles, the outsiders, the foreigners, worshipped Jesus while the king was disturbed and the religious leaders were indifferent.

The Magi give us a picture of worship: 1) They followed the light of God, 2) and went out of their way, 3) and brought Jesus their best.

#### Conclusion:

Jesus is the ultimate worshipper: 1) He followed the instructions of his Father, 2) went out of his way, 3) and brought US his best.

1 Peter 1:18-21

Bethel Church Penticton - Sunday, December 6, 2015 - Pastor Dave Funk

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. Warm up: Which Christmas story do you like better: The Grinch Who Stole Christmas, or A Christmas Carol? Why? What lessons do we learn from The Grinch and Ebenezer Scrooge? How do their attitudes reflect our own?

### Study & Discussion:

1. Read the story of Herod trying to kill Jesus (Matthew 2:1-23). What stands out to you about this story? What is Herod's motivation? Why was he troubled (v. 3)? Why would "all Jerusalem" be troubled with him? What troubles people about Jesus today?
2. Read Isaiah 9:2-7. This passage is a well-known prophecy of Jesus (especially v. 6). What stands out to you about Isaiah's prophecy? How did Jesus fulfill it? How was he a "prince of peace" if his birth caused so much violence (see Herod)?

### Application:

1. The second Advent Candle is the candle of Peace or Preparation. How are these themes evident in Matthew's Herod narrative? How did God prepare the world for Jesus? How did God prepare Mary and Joseph? How should we prepare ourselves for Christmas? How should we prepare ourselves for Jesus' second coming?

### Prayer:

1. Pray for a transformation of attitude for Christmas Grinches and Scrooges.

2. Pray for prepared hearts for the celebration of Jesus first coming, and for his second coming.

3. Other requests

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