

## Behold Your King: Gospel DIVISION

TEXT: MATTHEW 2

### The GOSPEL DIVIDES?

- 1) Jesus came to bring PEACE (wholeness & unity) for those whom God GRACES (favours): Luke 2:14
- 2) But He also came to DIVIDE: Luke 12:51–53. See also: Matthew 6:24; 10:34–35; 13:47–50; 25:31–32

### The Gospel DIVIDES between the WISE (repentant) and the WICKED (unrepentant): Matthew 2:1

- 1) PEACE is for the humbly REPENTANT: Isaiah 57:15a, 18–19a. See also: Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7, 9:10
- 2) NO peace for the unrepentant, prideful WICKED: Isaiah 57:19b–21. See also: Mark 1:15; Luke 13:3, 5, 15:7; Acts 2:38

### The Gospel DIVIDES between those who SEEK GOD'S AUTHORITY and those who are TROUBLED by it:

- 1) Some come SEEKING A MASTER: Matthew 2:2
- 2) Some don't want a NEW MASTER who will REMOVE their power and INTERRUPT their plans: Matthew 2:3

### The Gospel DIVIDES between the AUTHENTIC and the deceitfully FAKE:

- 1) Acting in SECRET vs OPEN TRANSPARENCY: Matthew 2:7
- 2) Acting with TRUE MOTIVES vs SELF-PROTECTIVE LIES: Matthew 2:8

### The Gospel DIVIDES between those led by GOD into RELATIONSHIP and those who PURSUE RELIGION in order to DESTROY GOD'S REIGN:

- 1) Herod pursued RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE and FEIGNED worship in an attempt to STOP God's promised DELIVERER: Matthew 2:4
- 2) The magi were LED by GOD to find their HEART'S FULFILLMENT: Matthew 2:9

### The Gospel DIVIDES between those who find true JOY and PURPOSE in God's PRESENCE and those who HATE God's presence:

- 1) The magi REJOICED in the presence of Jesus: Matthew 2:10
- 2) The magi WORSHIPPED and GAVE: Matthew 2:11
- 3) Herod sought to DESTROY Jesus out of His Hatred: Matthew 2:13d

### The Gospel DIVIDES between those who TRUST GOD to FULFILL God's PLAN and those who seek to THWART God's PLAN:

- 1) Those who TRUST God to FULFILL His PLAN: Matthew 2:12–21
- 2) Those who try to THWART (STOP) God's PLAN: Matthew 2:16
  - a) Even Man's EVIL actions are under God's SOVEREIGN CONTROL: Matt. 2:17–18 cf: Jeremiah 31:15 See: Psalm 76:10
  - b) God OVERRIDES even our evil to FULFILL His Plan: Gen. 50:20.

### The Gospel DIVIDES between those who seek their own SIGNIFICANCE and those trust GOD ALONE to make our lives COUNT: Matt. 2:22–23

- 1) What of SIGNIFICANCE or VALUE can come from a cultural backwater? John 1:46
- 2) Jesus's SIGNIFICANCE comes from His LIFE and His SACRIFICE – NOT from ANYTHING ELSE: Isaiah 53:2–3
- 3) And SO IT SHOULD BE amongst His FOLLOWERS: Matt. 20:25–28

### The Gospel DIVIDES earthly KINGDOMS and UNITES a new PEOPLE in His Kingdom of PEACE: Matthew 2:1

- 1) Jesus came to FULFILL a promise for ALL NATIONS: Isaiah 56:7. cf: Matthew 21:13. See also: Isaiah 43:6–7; 56:3–6
- 2) In Jesus, the promise of God's BLESSING to Abraham is extended to all who have FAITH in Him: Galatians 3:14a. See also: 3:7, 29
- 3) He PURCHASED a new people and UNITES them into His new Kingdom: Revelation 5:9–10
- 4) We have a new IDENTITY, PURPOSE, LOYALTY & COMMUNITY: 1 Peter 2:9–10. See also: Ephesians 2:13–16
- 5) We get to INVITE individuals and peoples to experience God's Kingdom of PEACE: Matthew 28:19–20a. See: Acts 1:8

---

### “Gospel In Life” questions for REFLECTION & APPLICATION

- 1) BELIEVE: WHAT TRUTHS did God REVEAL to me through His Word today about HIM and/or MYSELF?
- 2) ASSESS: HOW do these truths ENCOURAGE and/or CHALLENGE (convict) ME?
- 3) PROCESS: WHY is this message GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) to ME today? (CONNECT the GOSPEL story to MY present story)
- 4) CHANGE: WHERE will I APPLY (BELIEVE, REPENT, DO) this message in MY own life this week?
- 5) PROCLAIM: WHO does God want ME to share these truths with?
- 6) PREPARE for NEXT WEEK: Read Matthew 3