

**Sermon Title:**                    **“Responding To The Christ Of Christmas.”**

**Sermon Text:**                    **Matthew 2:1-18**

**Introduction:**

- *In Matthew’s account of the birth of the Christ he identifies several groups of people whose reactions reveal 3 very common responses to the Christ of Christmas:*

**I. Some People Are Completely Indifferent To The Christ Of Christmas (2:1-6)**

- What is the significance of the word “troubled”?
- The Scribes, Chief Priests, along with the Teachers of the Law, were professional students of the Torah of God.

• *Micah 5:2*

• *These men also would have known that...*

*He would be born of the Seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15)*

*He would be a descendant of Shem (Genesis 9:26)*

*He would be of the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)*

*He would be a descendant of Isaac (Genesis 22:18)*

*He would be a descendant of Jacob (Genesis 28:14)*

*He would be of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10)*

*He would be a ‘son of David’ (II Samuel 7:11-12, 16)*

*He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)*

*He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)*

- **The Question is** - *why didn’t they just go to Bethlehem? It was only 6 miles away!*

• *Let me suggest 3 answers to that question:*

1) *Their Knowledge Made Them Intellectually Lazy (II Timothy 3:7)*

2) *Their Religion Made Them Spiritually Indifferent*

3) *Their Background Made Them Culturally Arrogant*

- *If the heart is not right, no amount of Bible knowledge can make up the difference!*

- Some of those who are the farthest away from the heart of Jesus are those who think that they know everything there is to know about Him!

## II. Some People Are Vehemently Opposed To The Christ Of Christmas (2:16-18)

- *Why is this shocking story recorded in the Bible?*

### 1) The Story Fits With Everything That We Know About Herod's Nature

- At this time Herod had been in power for over 40 years and has proven to be a clever and cruel man.
- Above everything else, Herod was a killer. He killed out of spite and he killed to stay in power!

### 2) The Story Fits With Everything That We Know About Human Nature

- *Herod was just like us* - the only real difference is that he had the power to carry out his evil intentions!
- *The central truth about human nature is that sin is in all of us!* (Romans 3:23)
- The slaughter of the baby boys of Bethlehem is a perpetual reminder at the very beginning of Christ's earthly life that *this is why he had to be born!*

## III. Some People Are Faithfully Devoted To The Christ Of Christmas (2:7-12)

- The behavior of the Magi in the presence of the Baby was the proper attitude and posture for someone in the presence of God!
- *The Wise Men knew so little, came so far, and gave so much. The teachers of the law knew so much, were so near, and yet did so little!*

*"It's not enough to know about Jesus, you must personally respond to that truth by bowing your knee and opening your heart to Him!"*

- The ultimate question is *not* how someone else responds *but* how you respond to Jesus.

### Conclusion:

*If you believe all that the Bible says about Jesus, then do what the Wise Men did, come with an open heart, bow down before the Lord Jesus and worship Him!*