

The Messiness and Purpose of Christmas

Matthew 2





Opening Question

How do you celebrate Christmas every year?

What are some of the things you do to remember Jesus during this season?





True heavenly Joy does not come from the world. It is not from the holiday season or even our circumstances.

True Hope comes from **Jesus' birth** who takes away our sins.



DEBUNKING *the* NATIVITY SCENE





Matthew 2:1-21

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi 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.”*



Matthew 2:1-21

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.



Matthew 2:1-21

12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for **Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.**”

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: ***“Out of Egypt I called my son.”***



Matthew 2:1-21

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."*



Matthew 2:1-21

19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, **23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.**



Roadmap

Matthew 1-2

I. The Messiness of **Family** (Matthew 1)

II. The Messiness of **Power** (Matt 2:1-12)

III. The Messiness of our **Lives** (Matt. 2:13-22)

IV. Christ the Reason for Christmas



I. The Messiness of Family

Genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17)

“17 Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

- Abraham, David and Jesus. Genealogies are important reminder that this is not just a story, **but the ACTUAL History of Israel.**
- It shows that Jesus is **the promised Messiah** through David’s line to Israel first and then to **ALL of humanity.**
- **Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba,** and **Tamar** explicitly mentioned.



I. The Messiness of Family

Joseph accepts Jesus as His Son (Matt 1:18-25)

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he **had in mind to divorce her quietly.**



I. The Messiness of Family

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 **“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).**



I. The Messiness of Family

- Even with the blessing of the Holy spirit, there is a **MESSINESS** to the unusual nature of this miracle that could have shattered this family. But grace, redemption, and God's promise still prevails.
- Jesus will be IMMANUEL!! → “God among us”



I. The Messiness of Family

- We all have **messy** and **imperfect** families

**Can you give your family to God?
Can you turn to Him for Hope?**



II. The Messiness of Power

The Magi visit the Messiah (v 1-3)

“Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 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.**”

When King Herod heard this **he was disturbed**, and all Jerusalem with him. together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.”





II. The Messiness of Power

→ The Magi were in wonder and had the **humility** to worship Him.

→ Herod wanted to **preserve his own rule** and destroy Jesus.

→ Most Jews **didn't care** and didn't see how this will affect their life. (apathy)



II. The Messiness of Power

What is **Our Response** to the arrival of Jesus?

Is it Joy, Hate or Indifference??



III. The Messiness of Our Life

The Escape to Egypt

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.

→ When Jesus came into this world, violence and tension ensued. **Pain and Brokenness will always be here.**

→ Once we are born again, there will be **even greater conflict with this world.** → John 16:31-33



III. The Messiness of Our Life

John 16:31-33 → “Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. 32 “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

1 Timothy 4:10 → “This is why we work hard and continue **to suffer**, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly of all believers ”



III. The Messiness of Our Life

The Return to Nazareth

21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, 23 **and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.**

- Jesus lived and grew up in Nazareth. God can use **Humble circumstances to point to His Glory!**





IV. Christ: **the Reason** for Christmas

Christ is **The Reason, The Purpose, The Hope, The Meaning** of Christmas

Christmas **Exists** because **Sin Exists**.

Jesus is **the perfect sacrifice**. He is the Baby who was **Born to Die**. To **deliver us** from something we cannot possibly help ourselves with.



IV. Christ: **the Reason** for Christmas

2 Corinthians 5:21 → ²¹ For our sake **he made him to be sin who knew no sin**, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1 John 2:1-2 But if anybody does sin, **we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ**, the Righteous One. ² He is **the atoning sacrifice** (the propitiation) for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.



IV. Christ: **the Reason** for Christmas

Romans 5:6-8 →⁶ For **while we were still weak**, at the right time **Christ died for the ungodly.** ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person— though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ **but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**



Reflection:

**Will you commit 2024 to
Christ today?**