

Sermon Study Guide



#3: The “Scrooge” in Us

A Covid Christmas: Discovering Joy & Peace in Troubled Times

December 13, 2020 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

The hardships caused by COVID-19 have made it difficult to see how disruptions and upheavals fit into God's plan for us. In this mini-series, we look to God's Word to help us discover that even in troubled times and amidst life's biggest upheavals, joy and peace can be found in Christ.

Reflect

Do you know anyone who is critical of Christmas? How do you deal with that kind of attitude?

Read and Discuss

Scripture

Matthew 2:1-11

Discussion Questions

Herod the Great is known for being a villain at the time of Jesus' birth. His attitude and actions in the first Christmas should not be emulated. Read Matthew 2:1-12. Look at the four attitudes exhibited by Herod in this passage.

1. **Unwilling to give Jesus control of our lives (v. 1-3).** What was the purpose of the three wise men in searching for the baby Jesus? What guided them in their search for Him? What was the reaction of King Herod when the wise men inquired from him the whereabouts of Jesus who, according to the wisemen, had been born King of the Jews? Why would a King like Herod be insecure and disturbed by the presence of a helpless child? Do you have any problem letting Jesus control your life? What happens if you don't allow Him to do so? On the other hand, how would your life be joyful and at peace if you let Him?
2. **Forgetting that Jesus is the most important person in our life (v. 4-6).** What is the significance of Jesus being born in Bethlehem? What does it say about King Herod, who was raised as a Jew, that he didn't know where the Messiah was born? What do people often forget in their busyness of celebrating Christmas? What are the blessings when you focus

on Jesus instead of giving more importance to the peripheries of life?

3. **Keeping the good news of Jesus to yourself (v. 7-8).** What action did King Herod do that showed his paranoia, lies, and insecurity? In what ways do Christians today, even during Christmas time when it is natural to talk about Christ, are apprehensive to talk to others about Him? In what ways can you talk about Jesus instead of keeping Him to yourself? Being a recipient of the ultimate Christmas gift of Jesus in your life, could you share Him with someone else?
4. **Showing through inaction no desire to worship Jesus (v. 9-11).** While Herod's heart was so troubled, describe how the three wisemen were feeling in their final journey to see the young child Jesus. What did they do upon seeing Jesus? How did they worship Him? How is it different from Herod who said he wanted to know where Jesus was so he can worship Him, too? How do your actions show the true condition of your heart with regards to what you think of Jesus?

Respond

In Walk: Instead of having a wrong attitude like King Herod, your attitude should be *willingness* to give Jesus control of your lives; *remembering* that Jesus is the most important person in your life; *sharing* the good news of Jesus to everyone and *showing through action* your desire to worship Jesus. What are some things you can do this Christmas season to point a non-Christian friend or loved one to Christ? How would you show your true worship to the Savior who had come to save you from your sin?

In Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for showing me what kind of attitude I should have about my Savior Jesus Christ not only this Christmas season, but every day of my life. May I respond in worship, showing it in tangible actions just like the wisemen, that would really express the joys of my heart. Help me to do a shining deed that would lead someone to Christ. In His mighty name, I pray. Amen.