

**SCC Small Group Discussion**  
**Supporting Cast: Herod - Matthew 2:1-8**

**Derived from a sermon on November 30, 2025 by Dr. Jeff Chandler**

**Getting Started:**

Who is your favorite movie or comic book villain, and why?

What are some of the characteristics that you think make a “good” (as in entertaining, especially bad) villain?

**Searching the Scriptures:**

Herod was made king of Judea by the Roman Senate in 40 B.C. Herod was known to be politically savvy, ambitious, and clever. He was wealthy, administratively oriented, and a great builder. Herod took on grand projects, including refurbishing the temple which began in 20 B.C. and lasted until near his death. Herod loved power, taxed heavily, and operated his empire on suspicion.

*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, 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. 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. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: “‘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.’ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 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.” Matthew. 2:1-8*

1. What details in this passage reveal Herod’s initial reaction to the news of a newborn “king of the Jews”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why do you think Herod was “disturbed” by the Magi’s announcement, and why did “all Jerusalem” share in his unease?

3. How does Herod's consultation with the chief priests and teachers of the law show both his insecurity and his reliance on religious authority?
4. Herod tells the Magi to "search carefully" and report back so he too may "worship." What does this reveal about his true intentions versus his outward words?
5. Compare Herod's response to the Magi with their own desire to worship. What does this contrast teach us about different ways people respond to Jesus' kingship?
6. Herod missed the work of God because he was too set on having your own way. Has that ever happened to you?
7. In what ways might Herod's fear of losing power mirror struggles we face today when God's authority challenges our own control or ambitions?

### **Personal Application**

How can we lovingly point one another to the truth when we are stuck in a place of sin like Herod or half-hearted belief like the Jewish authorities?

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