

2:42LifeGroups

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE GOSPEL

Life Group Study Guide

Christ Our King

Matthew 2:1-15

Review

This is the last of our three-part series on Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King. As a reminder, this series is intended to focus our hearts and minds on the true meaning of Christmas—the coming of the Christ, the ultimate Anointed One.

What makes this so important to us today? Recall these three reasons:

My view of God is distorted, so I need a prophet who can tell me the truth about God, myself, and the way to God.

My relationship with God is disrupted, so I need a priest who can show me love by bearing the punishment for my sin.

Our world is disordered, so we need a king who has the power to make everything as it should be.

This week's message focuses on Christ as our perfect king. As King, Christ commands us to choose whether to reject him or to worship him. Matthew's account of Herod and the wise men vividly illustrates this choice. Motivated by selfish fear and distrust, Herod chose to guard his little throne instead of worshipping the King of kings. The wise men, on the other hand, followed the star in faith and worshiped the King with joy.

Discussion

1. Apart from Christ, we tend to be like Herod—we want to rule our own lives and guard our little kingdoms. Inevitably, the result is always chaos (see Judges 21:25; Psalm 2:1-3). How do we see this happening in world affairs? in families? in personal choices?
2. Think about the idea of submitting yourself completely to someone else's authority. What is so frightening about that thought?
3. Scripture makes it clear that Jesus is the perfect king for two reasons: 1) he loves us like no other king does (see John 15:13; Romans 5:8; Revelation 1:5), and 2) he has the power that no other king has (John 10:17-18; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Revelation 19:15-16). What would it be like to submit to a king who had love but no power, or power but no love?
4. What areas of your life do you find most difficult to submit to Christ in? How should your mindset about these things change, knowing that he has perfect love and perfect power?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 15:25-26, 56-57. How should we think about death, since we know Christ has power over it?

Our series has focused on Christ's role as prophet, priest, and king. But Scripture also teaches that, in Christ, believers themselves become prophets, priests, and kings. This makes sense when you think about the the meaning of "Christ"—the ultimate One anointed with God's Spirit. Of course, Jesus Christ is God, and so there is an infinite distance between us and him. At the same time, however, like Christ, we also have the Spirit of God living within us (see Luke 4:1, 17-21; Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13-14). Fulfilling our role as prophets, priests, and kings, is how we live out the purposes for which God created us—to know and declare the truth about God, to enjoy the presence of God, and to exercise dominion for the glory of God.

- As prophets, we proclaim to others the truth about God (Acts 2:16-18; Colossians 3:16).
- As priests, we have direct access to God (1 Peter 2:9, Revelation 5:10).
- As kings, we have the responsibility to use our influence for God's glory (Genesis 1:26-27; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 5:10; 20:4-6; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3)

6. In what practical ways can we serve as prophets, priests, and kings?
- o As students in our school work?
 - o As parents toward our children?
 - o As spouses?
 - o As employers/employees?