



Advent Week 4

Day 25, Wednesday, December 22nd

"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 2:7-8

The plot is thickening as Jesus the Christ begins to attract a different audience. The magnitude of his birth is no longer just for the worshipers present on that day. Now someone else is paying attention.

Have you ever noticed how much interference comes your way as soon as you've focused your heart on Jesus? Herod, the soon to be originator of a death decree for all male children under two years old, is beginning his quest with a question and some encouragement. The question Herod asks is, "Where is the King Child? The encouragement is go search carefully for him. The beginning of treachery is wrapped around a fake desire to worship. Herod has no desire to worship the newborn King, Jesus Christ. Instead, he feels threatened by his arrival and implements his plan to rid Jesus from the scene.

REFLECT: It's so easy to be appalled, as we should be, at Herod's actions to kill off the Savior under the guise of wanting to worship. However, how are our own hearts when it comes giving complete surrender to God? What are we harboring in our heart? What fakeness might we be trying to pass off as genuine?

PRAYER: God, help us to give ourselves completely to you in worship. Help us come boldly to you knowing you are fully aware of our secrets and shame. Let us trust you in the midst of all the complexities of who we are. We surrender. Amen.

