

The First Page (A Series on Genesis 1)

"The One Who Has Been Born King"

Matthew 2:1-12

"...Wait...What?!"

4. Jesus is sovereign and king. That means, in the words of Abraham Kuyper, "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!" In what ways do even Christians sometimes find God's sovereignty disturbing?

5. Read Psalm 23 in your Bible in light of what Jesus says in John 10 (see below). What are some of the specific aspects of this depiction of his leadership that help you trust him to lead your life?

John 10: ³ ...the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ ...he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ...¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

6. How might Jesus, your shepherd leader, be disrupting your comfort for the sake of his mission?

7. What are some of the ways you can grow to follow and trust Jesus as leader of your life?

"For them, Herod's [question] was 'Bible Trivia for 100.' I envision them standing side by side before Herod, like contestants on the game show Jeopardy, and as soon as Herod is done asking his question all of them simultaneously place their hands on the buzzer—'What is Bethlehem of Judea?'" (Douglas Sean O'Donnell)

Herod's Response:

Jerusalem's Response:

The Religious Leaders' Response:

If we're honest, there's a _____ of all these responses in all of us.

The Shepherd King

Part of the antidote to these kinds of responses is found in recognizing that Jesus our king is a _____ leader of our lives.

Psalm 23

"[In Psalm 23] king David draws from his own experience as a shepherd boy and frames his entire psalm around a shepherding metaphor. David describes the with-God life, where there is no lack.... David experiences God as a shepherd, in a very personal, intimate way. ...[He] emphasizes the first person singular. ...'my' savior... leading 'me,' ...with 'me,' ... comforting 'me.' ...David knows on an experiential level that his shepherd gets him, knows what he is going through, and is there with him when he is going through it. David has a transparent, safe, and secure relational attachment with God. ...David knows he is never alone." (Tom Nelson)

John 10:3-4,10-11

You can be deeply disturbed by Jesus ruling in your life or you can recognize that of all the forces competing for your allegiance, including your own desires, none loves you and cares for you and is able to lead you to a _____ life like Jesus can.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Some people welcome interruptions and thrive in disruption. Many don't. Describe your usual response to interruptions and disruptions?
3. Read Matthew 2:1-12. What words would you add to describe the reactions of Herod, all Jerusalem, and the religious leaders?