

Two Kinds of Opposition to Jesus by John Piper

Solid Joys, desiringGod.org

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. (Matthew 2:3)

Jesus is troubling to people who do not want to worship him, and he arouses opposition against those who do. This is probably not a main point in the mind of Matthew, but it is an inescapable implication as the story goes on.

In this story, there are two kinds of people who do not want to worship Jesus.

The first kind is the people who simply do nothing about Jesus. He is a nonentity in their lives. This group is represented at the beginning of Jesus's life by the chief priests and scribes. Matthew 2:4 says, "Assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, [Herod] inquired of them where the Christ was to be born." So they told him, and that was that: back to business as usual. The sheer silence and inactivity of the leaders is overwhelming in view of the magnitude of what was happening.

And notice, Matthew 2:3 says, "When

Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." In other words, the rumor was going around that someone thought the Messiah was born. The inactivity on the part of the chief priests is staggering: why not go with the magi? They are not interested. They are not passionate about finding the Son of God and worshiping him.

The second kind of people who do not want to worship Jesus is the kind who are deeply threatened by him. That's Herod in this story. He is really afraid. So much so that he schemes and lies and then commits mass murder just to get rid of Jesus.

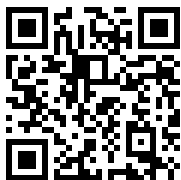
So today, these two kinds of opposition will come against Christ and his worshipers: indifference and hostility. I surely hope that you are not in one of those groups.

And if you are a Christian, let this Christmas be the time when you ponder what it means — what it costs — to worship and follow this Messiah.

Events

TODAY Christmas Music
Program 5:30 PM
12/22 College & Career
Christmas Party 7 PM
12/24 Christmas Eve Service
7 PM
1/1 New Years' Day Service
7 PM

Give



Upcoming Events



Pastors

Gary Hendrix Stephen Byrd
Stu Johnston Bob Prentice
Michael Lopes

Service Times

— Sunday School 9:30 am
— Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
— Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
— Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm

919-563-9249
www.grbc.net



December 15, 2019



*For from him
and through him
and to him
are all things*

Traducción simultanea al español disponible en servicios de AM y PM

Morning Worship

Call to Worship
Opening Hymn

Pastor Stu Johnston
Come Behold the Wondrous
Mystery

1. Come, behold the wondrous mystery in the dawning of the King.
He, the theme of heaven's praises robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

2. Come, behold the wondrous mystery; He the perfect Son of Man
in His living, in His suffering never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand.

3. Come, behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption; see the Father's plan unfold;
bringing many sons to glory; Grace unmeasured, Love untold.

4. Come, behold the wondrous mystery; slain by death, the God of life;
But no grave could e'er restrain Him; praise the Lord; He is alive!

**What a foretaste of deliverance; how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected as we will be when He comes! (repeat)**

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Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer
Offertory

1 Peter 4:12-19, page 1016

Immanuel (From the Squalor)

From the squalor of a borrowed stable by the Spirit and a virgin's faith
To the anguish and the shame of scandal came the Savior of the human race
But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven
Shepherds listen as the angels tell of the Gift of God come down to man
At the dawning of Immanuel

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners
Humble servant in the Father's hands
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit filled with mercy for the broken man
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain
Joys and sorrows that I know so well
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again –
I will follow my Immanuel

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal he was lifted on a cruel cross
He was punished for a world's transgressions
He was suffering to save the lost
He fights for breath, he fights for me
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell
And with a shout, our souls are free –
Death defeated by Immanuel.

Now He's standing in the place of honor
Crowned with glory on the highest throne
Interceding for His own beloved till His Father calls to bring them home!

**Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell
But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms
Giving glory to Immanuel! (repeat)**

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Preparatory

Glorious Day

One day when Heaven was filled with His praises,
one day when sin was as dark as could be.
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin
Dwelt among men, my example is He.
Word became flesh and the light shined among us His glory revealed.

(Chorus)

**Living, He loved me. Dying, He saved me,
buried He carried my sins far away.
Rising, He justified, freely forever.**

One day He's coming; oh, glorious day, oh, glorious day!

One day they led Him up Calvary's mountain.
One day they nailed Him to die on a tree.
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected, bearing our sins, my Redeemer is He.
Hands that healed nations, stretched out on a tree and took the nails for me!

(Chorus)

One day the grave could conceal Him no longer.
One day the stone rolled away from the door.
Then He arose; over death He had conquered.
Now is ascended, my Lord evermore!
Death could not hold Him! The grave could not keep Him from rising again!

(Chorus)

Oh, glorious day! Glorious day!

One day the trumpet will sound for His coming!
One day the skies with His glories will shine!
Wonderful day, my Beloved One bringing My Savior, Jesus is mine!

(Chorus)

Oh, glorious day! Glorious day!

Text: J. Wilbur Chapman Additional text and music: Mark Hall and Michael Bleaker
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Sermon

Pastor Gary Hendrix