

The Story of Two Kings

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet." Matthew 2:1-5 ESV

Jesus said of Himself, "For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

Herod, a very wicked king, was so fearful that someone would take his throne that he killed some of his own sons and other members of his family. When he heard from the Wisemen that a new King had been born Herod wanted to kill Him. Herod didn't understand that Jesus did not want an earthly throne; Jesus came to change our hearts and lives.

In what ways do you want Jesus to change your heart? In what ways do you want Him to change your life?

One king, Herod, was born in wealth, the other, Jesus, in poverty; one was arrogant and proud, the other was known for His humility; one was a criminal who died like a king, the other a King who died like a criminal but rose again to break the bonds of death and sin. Two kings, one who spent his life indulging himself, the other, a King who gave His life so that we can live with Him in Heaven forever.

In what ways do you live life to serve yourself? In what ways do you live to serve others?

Herod's builders and slaves built great palaces and temples so Herod could leave a legacy of himself for the future. Today his kingdoms lie in ruin. Jesus came to sacrifice His life so that we can live. Today His words continue to build up His kingdom around the world, giving hope and comfort to millions of people.

What kind of legacy do you want to leave for the future? The Bible says only faith, hope and love will last and the greatest of these is love. What are some specific ways that you can leave a legacy of love?

Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child shall not enter it." (Mark 10:15) Jesus is telling us that we should come to Him with child-like hearts. Sometimes our hearts are hardened by the cares and struggles that we've faced in life. Jesus invites us to give Him our struggles and fears. He wants to carry them for us. He invites us to trust in Him. Name some of the things you are afraid of and struggle with. Take them to the Lord in prayer and ask Him to help you.

In "Where did the Bible come from?" the presenters talk about how people sometimes rewrite history in novels, movies, and history books. Even when it is done in fiction, it can change the way people think. News reports and tabloids are often corrupted by the bias of the reporters. Have you ever come to a wrong conclusion because you believed something that wasn't really true? Has someone ever misjudged you because of they were told something that wasn't true or was only partially true about you? What impact do you think it has on our nation and the world if untrue or biased things are written and said about the Bible?

Do we love things and use people or love people and use things? When we respect each other and work together it makes us all strong. When we use people for our own advantage we fracture relationships and cause each other pain. God wants us to seek out the truth, not just believe everything that we are told. People today turn away from the Bible because they've been told that it isn't true, yet there is more verification for the accuracy of the Bible than any other book in history. Do you believe the Bible is true?

Dear Lord, we thank you for Jesus. Help us to live our lives in peace and harmony. There are so many different voices in the world trying to convince us of many different things. Help us to put our trust in You and Your word. Show us what is right and wrong. Help us to live our lives to be a legacy of what is good. In Jesus name, Amen.