

December 21, 2025

Jesus Is Legit But Life Is Awful (Matthew 2:13-23)

Warmup: Share a time you took a spontaneous trip with little or no planning. What made you go?

READ & REFLECT Matthew 2:13-23, Isaiah 14:12-15

- What is disturbing Herod in this passage? What is he afraid of losing, and why does that fear turn into jealousy?
- Pastor Neil quoted his friend: “The whole world turns on jealousy.” Where do you see that truth unfolding in this story?
- Isaiah 14:12–15 is connected to Satan’s fall. According to this passage, what desire or attitude led to his downfall?
- Take 30 seconds: list as many biblical stories as you can where jealousy fractured relationships or fueled destruction. What patterns do you notice?

RESPONSE

- In the Christmas story, the Magi bow in worship while Herod clings to control. Herod feared Jesus would take his throne, but Jesus wanted to take his heart, not his position.
 - What are you most tempted to guard, protect, or cling to out of jealousy?
 - Jealousy often grows from fear. Herod could have received God’s peace but instead he clung to earthly things. Can you open your hands, release what you’re gripping, and invite the Holy Spirit to fill you with trust, and exactly what you need for today?
- This passage confronts us with the reality of evil and the weight of human choices. Yet it also reveals that God wastes nothing, not even pain.
 - Where do you sense God gathering up your pain, weaving it into His healing and salvation story?
- This story doesn’t just help us lament evil; it calls us to resist it. Jesus enters a violent world as light in the darkness, and He invites us to do the same.
 - As you listen to the Christmas story this week, how is God prompting you to push back against evil and shine the light of Jesus’ love in a practical way?

“To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.”