

Morning Sermon Outline

December 13, 2015, Matthew 2:1-18

“Kiss, Miss or Hiss; How Will You Respond to Christ?”

Jesus was born into the same murderous, sin-filled world we live in today, a few would seek Him to find Him and others seek to kill Him –

“The King is born, and now he must be acknowledged. At the same moment, he will be assailed.” C.H. Spurgeon

I. True worshippers seek to KISS Christ –

^{NKJ} Matthew 2:1 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, ² saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." (Matthew 2:1-2 NKJ)

προσκυνέω proskuneo {pros-koo-neh'-o}

Meaning: 1) to kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence 2) among the Orientals, esp. the Persians, to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence 3) in the NT by kneeling or prostration to do homage (to one) or make obeisance, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication 3a) used of homage shown to men and beings of superior rank 3a1) to the Jewish high priests 3a2) to God 3a3) to Christ 3a4) to heavenly beings 3a5) to demons Origin: from 4314 and a probable derivative of 2965 (meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand)

1. *These men traveled a great distance for Christ; they put foot-work to their faith -*

Spiritual Diligence -

Fourth, these verses show us a splendid example of spiritual diligence. What trouble it must have cost these wise men to travel from their homes to the house where Jesus was born! How many weary miles they must have journeyed! The fatigues of an Eastern traveler are far greater than we can at all understand. The time that such a journey would occupy must have been very great. The dangers to be encountered were neither few nor small. But none of these things moved them. They had set their hearts on seeing him “who has been born king of the Jews” (verse 2), and they never rested till they saw him. They prove to us the truth of the old saying, “Where there is a will there is a way.”

It would be well for all professing Christians if they were more ready to follow the example of these good men. Where is our self-denial? What pains do we take about means of grace? What diligence do we show about follow-

ing Christ? What does our religion cost us? These are serious questions. They deserve serious consideration. The truly “wise,” it may be feared, are very few. J.C. Ryle

2. *They rejoiced in the means of grace that would bring them to Christ –*

¹⁰ **When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. (Matthew 2:10 NKJ)**

³⁹ **"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. (John 5:39 NKJ)**

<To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.> The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. ² Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. ³ *There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard.* ⁴ Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, ⁵ Which *is* like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *And* rejoices like a strong man to run its race. ⁶ Its rising *is* from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat. ⁷ The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹ The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired *are they* than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover by them Your servant *is* warned, *And* in keeping them *there is* great reward. (Psalm 19:1-11 NKJ)

We call revelation from the Heavens or nature “General Revelation” the Wise Men of Matthew 2, through this star, which may have been “special revelation” to them; came to Christ! They rejoiced in the star because it brought them to Jesus! We should rejoice in the Bible for the same reason, notice in both cases rejoicing is paired with diligence - But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:2 NKJ)

3. *When they found Christ they actually did bow to Him and worship Him –*

¹¹ **And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11 NKJ)**

A. *They physically bow to Jesus Christ, though He was in a humble state –*

^{NKJ} Isaiah 53:1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is no beauty that we should desire Him.* (Isaiah 53:1-2 NKJ)

B. *Christ still appears in this humble way today –*

⁵ so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. (Romans 12:5 NKJ)

C. *They gave Him both practical and impractical / extravagant gifts –*

And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11b NKJ)

Jesus Christ is honored in this way both at the time of His birth and near the time of His death –

⁷ a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured *it* on His head as He sat *at the table.* ⁸ But when His disciples saw *it*, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste?" ⁹ "For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to *the poor.*"

¹⁰ But when Jesus was aware of *it*, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. ¹¹ "For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. ¹² "For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did *it* for My burial. ¹³ "Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her." (Matthew 26:7-13 NKJ)

II. *Others MISS Christ –*

1. *Sadly this is the case with the majority of people in this world –*

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ "Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:13-14 NKJ)

2. *Here those who should have sought Christ out seem indifferent about actually going to Him –*

⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵ So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel." (Matthew 2:4-6 NKJ)

A. *The chief priests have accurate knowledge yet do not seek Christ themselves –*

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting." (Micah 5:2 NKJ)

B. *Did the benefits connected with being a chief priest; make them miss what is most important?*

There is only too much truth in the old proverb, "The nearer the church the farther from God." Familiarity with sacred things has an awful tendency to make men despise them. There are many who, from residence and convenience, ought to be first and foremost in the worship of God, and yet are always last. There are many who might well be expected to be last, who are always first. J.C. Ryle

"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, `These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'-- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- ¹⁸ "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹ "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. ²⁰ "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²² "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" (Revelation 3:14-22 NKJ)

III. *The worst HISS at Christ –*

1. *Herod's ways were filled with lies and plots –*

And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." (Matthew 2:8 NKJ)

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." (Matthew 2:13 NKJ)

2. *Sinful frustration fires Herod into being a murderous mad-man –*

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more." (Matthew 2:16-18 NKJ)

A. *This is what we have seen throughout the ages from the first son born into this world, Cain and all his descendants – Genesis 4 & 1 John 3:12 -*

¹² not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. (1John 3:12 NKJ)

B. *Murder and death is the way of man –*

There is a way *that seems* right to a man, but its end *is* the way of death. (Proverbs 16:25 NKJ)

C. *It is especially what sinners do and want to do to Christ –*

For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."¹⁸ Therefore the Jews **sought all the more to kill Him,** because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. (John 5:16-18 NKJ)

After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, **because the Jews sought to kill Him.** (John 7:1 NKJ)

"Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? **Why do you seek to kill Me?**"²⁰ The people answered and said, "You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?" (John 7:19-20 NKJ)

Now some of them from Jerusalem said, **"Is this not He whom they seek to kill?"** (John 7:25 NKJ)

"I know that you are Abraham's descendants, **but you seek to kill Me,** because My word has no place in you."³⁸ "I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father."³⁹ They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham."⁴⁰ **"But now you seek to kill Me,** a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. (John 8:37-40 NKJ)

⁴⁹ And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all,"⁵⁰ "nor do you consider that **it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people,** and not that the whole nation should perish."⁵¹ Now this he did not say on his own *authority*; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation,⁵² and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.⁵³ **Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.** (John 11:49-53 NKJ)

Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, **"Crucify Him, crucify Him!"** Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him." (John 19:6 NKJ)

Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away. (John 19:16 NKJ)

D. *The persecution does not stop with Christ but continues -*
"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you."¹⁹ "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."²⁰ "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' **If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.** If they kept My word, they will keep yours also."²¹ "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. (John 15:18-21 NKJ)

E. *This persecution is heated and enflamed by Satan –*
Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.² Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.³ And another sign appeared in heaven: **behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven dia-**

dems on his heads.⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.⁹ **So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, **"Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down."**¹¹ **"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."**¹² "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."¹³ Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*.¹⁴ But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.¹⁵ So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.¹⁷ **And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Revelation 12:1-17 NKJ)**

Satan is the great fiery red dragon of Revelation 12 which tried to devour the Christ child at His birth, Satan was working in Herod's heart, just as he was working in Judas' heart and as he has worked in many hearts even up until today!

- Satan was behind Pharaoh and the killing of boy babies in Egypt
- Satan was with Haman in his plot to kill all Jews
- Satan is behind all the persecutions and killings of God's people recorded in Scripture
- Satan is behind all deaths of Martyrs (witnesses) we read of in Church History
- Satan is behind abortion in our country
- Satan is behind ISIS and other murderous regimes today –

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. (Ephesians 6:10-12 NKJ)

IV. *The comfort to true worshippers of Christ –*

1. *God is powerful to thwart all of Satan's plans –*

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt,¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." (Matthew 2:13-15 NKJ)

2. *Even seeming defeat is part of our victory - Revelation 12:10-11*

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35-39 NKJ)

Arnold Brevick