

# *Illuminating the True King* 照亮真正的王

## Matthew 馬太福音 2:1-20

Used: Christmas Day 2021 年耶誕節

One of the great traditions of Christmas is the giving and receiving of gifts. All of us hope to get something that we really want.

耶誕節的偉大傳統之一是贈送和接受禮物。我們所有人都希望得到我們真正想要的東西。

Something that connects with who we are and what our interests and passions are.

與我們是誰以及我們的興趣和有關的東西。

The best gifts are not expensive, they are personal.

最好的禮物並不一定是昂貴的，而必須是個人的。

Jesus received some strange gifts as a young child, from a bunch of strangers.

耶穌幼小的時候從一群陌生人那裡收到了一些奇怪的禮物。

In v11 Jesus was presented with gifts of *gold* and *incense* and *myrrh*.

在第 11 節，耶穌收到了黃金、乳香和沒藥等禮物。

As a poor peasant girl Mary might have been pleased - these are expensive gifts. This baby comes with an extensive trust fund!

作為一個貧窮的農家女孩，馬利亞可能會很高興——這些都是昂貴的禮物。這個寶貝有一個廣泛的信託基金！

But she is probably baffled too. These gifts are deeply personal.

但她可能也很困惑。這些禮物都是非常個人的。

They are three gifts that reveal three significant things: **who** Jesus is, **what** he came to do, and **what it cost him** to do it.

他們是三件揭示了三樣顯著的事情的禮物：耶穌是誰，他來要做什麼，他為做到需要做的會讓他付上什麼代價。

The **GOLD** points to the kingship of Jesus. **Gold** was a gift that you brought to an audience with a king in the Ancient Near-East.

黃金指向耶穌的王權。在古代近東黃金是你帶去與國王會見的禮物。

The Magi were expecting to see a king.

博學之士們期待見到一位國王。

They ask: *Where is the one born who has been born king of the Jews?* They brought gifts for a king because that is who they were expecting to see.

他們問：「那生下來作猶太人之王的在哪裡？」他們帶來了為國王而預備的禮物，因為那是他們期待見到的人。

What alerted them to the arrival of a new king is in the second half of v2: *we saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.*

在第2節的後半部指明了是什麼使他們意識到新國王已到來的事情：「我們在東方看見他的星，特來拜他。」

These Magi were astrologers and magicians and interpreters of dreams.

這些博學之士是星象家、是魔術師和解夢者。

In the ancient world, most people believed in astrology, and so the MAGI were considered the elite. The academics. The wise men. The knowledgeable.

在古代世界，大多數人相信占星術，因此星象家被認為是精英。是學者。智者。知識淵博的。

When these guys saw the star, they immediately recognised it as something special happening.

當他們看到那顆星星時，他們立即意識到一件特別的事情正在發生。

A particular event in history caused **stars** to be associated with kings and rulers. When Julius Caesar died in 44BC, one of the most astonishing flukes in history took place.

歷史上的一些特殊事件往往使星星與國王和統治者聯繫在一起。當凱撒大帝於西元前44年去世時，發生了歷史上最驚人的僥倖之一。

A NOVA appeared in the sky above his funeral. From then on, stars for great men became the fashion.

在他葬禮上方的天空中出現了一個新星。從此，明星與偉人聯在一起成為了時尚。

So, these MAGI see this star and put 2 and 2 together.

所以，當這些博學之士看到了一顆星星，就不謀而合的把兩件事情聯合起來。

What would have also encouraged them to dust off their Passports was that there was also a very strong rumour around in the 1st century that world dominion would come from Judea.

鼓勵他們遠道而來的還有一個在西元1世紀時非常強烈的謠言，就是統治世界將來自猶太。

Famous 1st Century historians like Tacitus, Josephus, Suetonius all recorded it.

一世紀著名的歷史學家如塔西佗、約瑟夫斯、蘇埃托尼烏斯都記載過。

It wouldn't be a big leap for the Magi to conclude that political changes were on their way when they saw the star.

對於博學之士來說，當他們看到這星時，得出政治變革即將到來的結論並不是一個大的飛躍。

What these star gazers saw was most likely the conjunction of **Jupiter** and **Saturn**. It happened three times in the year 7BC - 29th May, 3 October, and 4th December.

這些觀星者看到的很可能是木星和土星的合相。它在西元前7年發生了3次——5月29日、10月3日和12月4日。

The MAGI would have also known that **Jupiter** was regarded as the royal planet, and **Saturn** had long been the symbol of Israel.

博學之士也該知道木星被視為皇族的星，而土星長期以來一直是以色列的象徵。

The competent astronomer would have concluded that a new age was beginning, with a new King, in which the rule of the world would shift to Judea.

有能力的天文學家都會得出結論，一個新的時代正在開始，新的國王出現了，世界的統治權將轉移到猶太。

They set out on a long and difficult journey to find the ruler of the world and offer this king gold.

他們踏上了漫長而艱難的旅程，尋找世界的統治者並獻上這些黃金。

**Incense** was also an unexpected gift. It was used by the priests in the Temple as they mediated between God and people. It symbolised relationship with God.

乳香也是意外的禮物。是被祭司在聖殿中作為上帝與人之間的仲介時用的。它像征著與上帝的關係。

The MAGI recognised Jesus as the ultimate priest. The One who would mediate between God and people.

博學之士確認耶穌是最終的祭司。那個在上帝和人之間做仲介的人。

The One who would bring about complete reconciliation between God and people. Jesus is the One who would establish that relationship.

使神與人完全和好的那一位。耶穌是建立這種關係的人。

Any new mother would have been thrown by a gift of **myrrh**. It was used to embalm the dead. It was a symbol of death.

任何新媽媽都會被沒藥的禮物所驚擾。它是被用來為死者防腐。那是死亡的象徵。

Imagine one of the presents under the Christmas tree for one of my children this year was a toy coffin?!

想像一下，今年聖誕樹下給我的一個孩子的禮物之一是一具玩具棺材？！

The gift of Myrrh was prophetic. The baby born a king was the baby born to die.

沒藥的禮物是預言性的。生為君王的嬰兒是為死而生的嬰兒。

That is what he needed to do to bring about reconciliation between God and humanity. Jesus would die for the sins of the humanity.

這就是他需要做的，以實現上帝與人類之間的和解。耶穌會為人類的罪而死。

“King of the Jews” is only used twice by Matthew in his gospel, here at Jesus’s birth and again at his crucifixion.

馬太在他的福音書中只用過兩次“猶太人的王”的稱號，一次是在耶穌誕生時，一次是在耶穌受難時。

Born a king who exercises his rule by sacrificing himself for us to bring us back into relationship with God.

天生就是一位王，他通過為我們犧牲自己來行使他的統治權，使我們重新與上帝建立關係。

In these three gifts we see **who** he is, **what** he came to do, and **how much** it cost him to do it.

在這三個禮物，我們看到他是誰，他來要做什麼，他為做到需要做的會讓他付上什麼代價。。

What is interesting is how people respond to the ‘who, ‘what’, ‘how’ in these verses.

有趣的是人們如何回應這些經文中的“誰”、“什麼”、“如何”。

One thing you notice throughout the historical biographies of Jesus is that when he turns up, people are divided in their opinions of him.

在耶穌的歷史傳記中，你注意到的一件事是，當他出現時，人們對他的看法存在分歧。

Here at the very start of his life we see at least two camps forming; one full of praise and welcome, the other full of hatred and opposition.

在他生命的最初階段，我們看到至少有兩個陣營正在形成；一個充滿讚美和歡迎，另一個充滿仇恨和反對。

The Magi and Herod stand out as opposites.

博學之士和希律是對立的。

Herod lies through his teeth in v8:

希律在第8節中說謊：

***“Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”***

***「你們去仔細尋訪那小孩子，找到了就來報信，我也好去拜他。」***

Herod has as much interest in worshipping Jesus as I have in taking up **sewing lessons**.

希律對敬拜耶穌的興趣和我對縫紉課的興趣大致一樣。

Later in the chapter we read Herod didn’t fool the Magi...they sneak off without telling Herod where Jesus is.

在這一章的後面，我們讀到博學之士並沒有希律愚弄到.....他們沒有告訴希律耶穌在哪裡就偷偷溜走了。

Herod was so furious that he orders all the boys 2 years old and under around Bethlehem to be put to death.

希律大怒，下令處死伯利恒附近所有兩歲以下的男孩。

Herod wants Jesus dead.

希律想要耶穌死。

Herod is the ROMAN appointed KING OF THE JEWS. He doesn't like the news that a king has been born. He is threatened.

希律是羅馬人任命的猶太人之王。他不喜歡一個新的王誕生的消息。他受到威脅。

He is infamous for the cruelty with which he dealt with rivals to his throne.

他因對待王位競爭對手的殘忍而臭名昭著。

Herod's response was hatred and fear. A hatred of anything and anyone that threatened his self-centredness, and autonomy.

希律的反應是仇恨和恐懼。憎恨任何威脅到他以自我為中心和自主性的事物和任何人。

This account of deception and fear, bloodshed, injustice, and homelessness are all too familiar. There is a great deal wrong with our world.

這種對欺騙和恐懼、流血、不公正和無家可歸的描述太熟悉了。我們的世界有很多問題。

But we walk into controversy when we ask where all this evil and wrong comes from.

但是，如果當我們問所有這些邪惡和錯誤從何而來時會陷入爭議。

One end of the spectrum says the rich and powerful are the ones to blame. This view of the world tends to make the poor and minorities the heroes of the world.

一方面，富人和有權勢是罪魁禍首。這種世界觀往往使窮人和少數民族成為世界的英雄。

At the other end of the spectrum are those who insist that immoral and irresponsible people are the main problem.

在另一端的是那些堅持認為不道德和不負責任的人是主要問題的人。

This view of the world tends to make hardworking, decent, middle-class people the heroes of the world.

這種世界觀往往使勤奮、正派、中產階級的人成為世界英雄。

At first glance, this story seems to side with the first view. Herod is an unjust ruler abusing his power and slaughtering the innocent.

乍一看，這個故事似乎與第一種觀點相左。希律是一個不公正的統治者，濫用職權屠殺無辜。

However, the full teaching of the Bible is that the source of the world's evil is EVERY human heart. Herod's reaction to Jesus is, in a sense, a picture of us all.

然而，聖經的全部教導是，世界邪惡的根源是每個人的心。從某種意義上說，希律對耶穌的反應是我們所有人的寫照。

If you want to be king, and someone else comes along saying he is the king, then one of you must give way. Only one person can sit on the absolute throne.

如果你想作王，而其他人說他才是王，那麼你們中的一個人必須讓位。只有一個人可以坐上絕對的寶座。

Jesus came into this world claiming to be God. To be the ultimate ruler of all things. He called for allegiance to him so supreme that it makes all other commitments look weak in comparison.

耶穌來到這個世界，自稱是神。要成為萬物的終極統治者。他呼籲至高無上的效忠於他，以至於所有其他承諾相比之下顯得微不足道。

It is a claim to absolute authority, a summons to unconditional loyalty, and it inevitably triggers deep resistance within the human heart.

它是對絕對權威的要求，是對無條件忠誠的召喚，它不可避免地引發了人心深處的反抗。

“Where's the true king?” This is the most disturbing question possible to the human heart. We want to remain on the throne of our lives at all cost.

“真正的王在哪裡？”這是人類內心最令人不安的問題。我們想不惜一切代價留在我們生命的寶座上。

We may use religion to stay on the throne, trying to put God into the position of having to do our bidding because we are so righteous, rather than serving him unconditionally.

我們可能會利用宗教來保住寶座，試圖讓上帝處於必須聽從我們命令的位置，因為我們是如此公義，而不是無條件地侍奉他。

Instead, we may flee from religion, become atheists, and loudly claim that there is no God.

Either way, we are expressing our natural hostility to the rule of the true king.

相反，我們可能會逃離宗教，成為無神論者，並大聲宣稱沒有上帝。無論哪種方式，我們都在表達我們對真正的王的統治的天然敵意。

Herod couldn't get rid of Jesus, even with an army at his disposal. In fact, he died, and Jesus lived.

即使有軍隊在他的支配下，希律也無法擺脫耶穌。事實上，他死了，而耶穌仍然活著。

When Queen Victoria ruled as a British monarch in the 1800s, she controlled a third of the world. She said one day that she couldn't wait to meet Jesus.

當維多利亞女王在1800年代作為英國君主統治時，她控制著三分之一的世界。她有一天說她迫不及待地想見到耶穌。

Why? “So that I can cast my crown before him.” She recognised that even as one of the most powerful people in the world, she too had a ruler, one who deserved her everything - even her crown.

為什麼？“好讓我在他面前把我的王冠脫下奉上。”她認識到，即使作為世界上最有權勢的人之一，她也有一位統治者，一位配得上她的一切——甚至是她的王冠的人。

Herod isn't the only negative reaction to Jesus that is recorded here. It's not as strong as Herod's reaction but it is just as negative.

希律並不是這裡記錄的唯一對耶穌有負面反應的人。他們不像希律的反應那麼強烈，但同樣是消極的。

They are the ones who simply do nothing about Jesus.

他們是對耶穌沒有作出任何行動的人。

He is a nonentity in their lives. This group is represented by the chief priests and scribes.

他在他們的生活中是無足輕重的。祭司長和文士代表著這一群人。

Verse 4: *Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, [Herod] inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.*

第4節：他(希律)就召集了祭司長和民間的文士，問他們：「基督該生在哪裡？」

Well, they told him, and that was that: back to business as usual. The **sheer silence and inactivity** of the religious leaders is overwhelming in view of the magnitude of what was happening.

好吧，他們告訴他，然後就是這樣：一切如常。鑒於所發生的事情的嚴重性，宗教領袖的絕對沉默和不作為是壓倒性的。

They didn't lift a sandal! Why not go with the Magi? They knew it all, but they did nothing.

They knew their Scriptures and had no problem in answering Herod, but they missed God.

他們沒有提起腳步！為什麼不和博學之士一起去？他們什麼都知道，但他們什麼也沒做。他們知道他們的聖經，並且在回答希律時沒有問題，但他們錯過了上帝。

They didn't go to greet him. Their apathy eventually hardened into outright opposition to Jesus. Their knowledge of Jesus was no substitute for obedience to Jesus.

他們沒有去迎接他。他們的冷漠最終變成了對耶穌的徹底反對。他們對耶穌的認識並不能代替對耶穌的服從。

It's astonishing that the positive reaction to Jesus comes from the Magi. In the rest of the Bible these guys are viewed very negatively. Only Matthew talks about these guys in positive terms. 令人驚訝的是，對耶穌的積極反應來自于博學之士。在聖經的其餘部分，這些人被非常消極地看待。只有馬太積極地談論這些人。

Impressed by what they saw in the sky at night they journeyed west to Judea to find out what it all meant.

他們對晚上在天空中看到的景像印象深刻，他們向西前往猶太去瞭解這一切意味著什麼。

It is astonishing that men with so little to go on should venture so far, endure such hardships in travel, and face such uncertainty of finding the One to whom the star pointed.

令人驚訝的是，只有這麼小的憑據的人竟敢如此遠行，在旅途中忍受如此艱辛，面對能否找到星星所指的那一位人如此不確定的。

What is more they gave him costly gifts and the worship and honour of their hearts.

更重要的是，他們給了他昂貴的禮物以及他們心中的敬拜和尊榮。

Where the religious leaders expended no **time** or **energy** or **expense** or **inconvenience**.

宗教領袖沒有花費任何**時間**或**精力**或**費用**或**不便**。

Where Herod expended a great deal of **time** and **energy** and **expense** and **inconvenience** to try and find Jesus so that he can kill him.

希律花費了大量的**時間**、**精力**、**費用**和**不便**來試圖找到耶穌，以便他可以殺死他。

The magi expend a great deal of **time** and **energy** and **expense** and **inconvenience** to try and find Jesus so that they can worship and honour him.

博學之士花費了大量的**時間**和**精力**以及**費用**和**不便**，試圖找到耶穌，好讓他們能夠崇拜和尊敬他。

The Magi are the worshippers; those who joyfully ascribe dignity, authority, and honour to King Jesus...and whose lives are satisfied in him.

博學之士是敬拜者；那些喜樂地將尊嚴、權柄和尊榮歸於君王耶穌的人.....他們的生活因他而得到滿足。

**Indifference** and **hostility** or **worship** are the responses to Jesus. I want to speak to two broad groups here today.

**冷漠**、**敵意**或**敬拜**是對耶穌的回應。我今天想在這裡與兩個廣泛的群體交談。

Firstly, the Christians. Those who accept Jesus and Christmas and Christianity.

首先是基督徒。那些接受耶穌、耶誕節和基督教的人。

It's important to know that every Christian still has a heart with residual anger and hostility towards God. It will be there until the end.

重要要知道的是，每個基督徒仍然有一顆對上帝存有憤怒和敵意的心。它會一直存在到最後。

This is why it is so hard to pray and give and obey and grow. There is still a bit of Herod in each of us. There is still something in us that fights God.

這就是為什麼祈禱、奉獻、服從和成長如此困難的原因。我們每個人身上仍然有一點希律。我們裡面仍然有一些與上帝爭戰的東西。

We cannot just glide through the Christian life. We have got to be far more intentional about Christian growth, and prayer, and about accountability to other people to overcome our bad habits.

我們不能只是滑過基督徒的生命。我們必須更加專注於基督徒的成長和祈禱，以及對他人負責以克服我們的壞習慣。

If, however, you are here today and your response is maybe indifference and hostility, I'd like to give some respectful advice if you will.

但是，如果您今天在這裡，而您的反應可能是冷漠和敵意，如果您願意，我想提出一些鄭重的建議。

For those unsure about Christmas and Christianity, or perhaps even the existence of God, remember that you are not objective in your view of Jesus, and God, and Christmas, and Christianity.

對於那些不確定耶誕節和基督教，甚至可能不確定上帝是否存在的人，請記住，您對耶穌、上帝、耶誕節和基督教的看法並不客觀。

The philosopher Thomas Nagel is an atheist who is very candid about this. He wrote this: 哲學家湯瑪斯·內格爾 (Thomas Nagel) 是一位無神論者，對此非常坦率。他寫道：

*I am talking about...the fear of religion itself. I am speaking from experience, being strongly subject to this fear myself. I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn't just that I don't believe in God, and naturally I hope that my belief is right. I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God. I don't want the universe to be like that. My guess is this cosmic authority problem is not rare. (Thomas Nagel, The Last Word, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997. p.130).*

我說的是.....對宗教本身的恐懼。我是根據經驗說的，我自己也強烈受到這種恐懼的影響。我希望無神論是真實的，但我所認識的一些最聰明、最見多識廣的人都是宗教信徒，這讓我感到不安。不僅是我不信神，自然也希望自己的信仰是對的。我希望沒有上帝！我不想有上帝。我不希望宇宙變成那樣。我的猜測是這個宇宙權威的問題並不罕見。(Thomas Nagel, The Last Word, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997. p.130)。

His point is that nobody is neutral about whether Christmas is true. If the Son of God was really born in a manger, then we have lost the rights to oversee our lives.

他的觀點是，沒有人對耶誕節是否真實持中立態度。如果上帝的兒子真的出生在馬槽裡，那麼我們就失去了監督自己生命的權利。

Who can be objective about a claim like that? Keep that in mind if you don't believe in Christianity. Question your doubts.

誰能客觀看待這樣的主張？如果您不相信基督教，請記住這一點。質疑你的疑惑。

I figure that you've got several things on your plate in the next few days but maybe soon you might want to look at the issue of WHO Jesus is, WHAT HE CAME TO DO, and WHAT IT COST HIM TO DO IT.

我想在接下來的幾天裡你有幾件事情要做，但也許很快你可能會想看看耶穌是誰、他來做什麼以及他為此付出了什麼代價的問題。

The Magi were the KNOWLEDGEABLE men of the EAST. They were the academic elite. 博學之士是東方的知識淵博的人。他們是學術精英。

But their KNOWLEDGE about these events of the first CHRISTMAS only took them so far. 但是他們對第一個耶誕節的這些事件的瞭解僅使他們走得不遠。

Their observation of the star took them to Jerusalem that was as far as they got. In the end they had to consult the Bible to find Jesus.

他們對那顆星的觀察把他們帶到了最遠的只是耶路撒冷。最後，他們不得不查閱聖經才能找到耶穌。

AND IN FINDING JESUS THEY FOUND WHAT THEY HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR ALL THEIR LIFE. He is the wisdom that they have been looking for.

在尋找耶穌的過程中，他們找到了他們一生都在尋找的東西。他是他們一直在尋找的智慧。

I want to say it without explaining it: Jesus is the answer to everything that we are searching for in life. He is the goal. The destination.

我想不加解釋地說出：耶穌是我們在生命中尋找的一切的答案。他是目標。目的地。

Can I encourage you to be like these wise men, and search for Jesus, but go to the source? The evidence is overwhelming and compelling.

我能不能鼓勵你像這些智者一樣，尋找耶穌，但要到源頭去？證據是壓倒性的和令人信服的。

Read one of the biographies of Jesus. Consider Jesus and ponder WHO Jesus is, WHAT HE CAME TO DO, and WHAT IT COST HIM TO DO IT...and what it means to bow down and worship him over 2000 years later.

閱讀其中一本耶穌的傳記。思考耶穌並思考耶穌是誰，他來做什麼，他為此付出了多少代價.....以及在 2000 多年後屈膝敬拜他意味著什麼。