



King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?” “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote: ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”

Matthew 2:4-6 (NLT)

I. WHY THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS MISSED CHRISTMAS

1. Ignorance—“I choose my own Messiah”

2. Indifference—“I don’t need God”

3. Complacency—“I am fine the way I am”

4. Arrogance—“I can save myself”

Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with such scum?” When Jesus heard this, he said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.” Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

Matthew 9:10-13 (NLT)

II. WHAT I LEARN FROM THE SHEPHERDS—LUKE 2:1-20

1. God works through the most unlikely situations (v.1-7)

2. God appears in the most unexpected places (v.8-14)

3. God uses the most unworthy people (v.15-20)