

## Monday Quotes



### Grain

16 When Herod realized he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.” Matthew 2:16

### Field

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Magi from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ... 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage..." 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. Matthew 2:1-3, 7-8 & 10-12

### Thoughts

The celebration of Christ born into our world and the radical welcome it entailed is followed by a story about the betrayal of children. God's world was juxtaposed to an empire based on a sort of greed that not only demanded riches but all attention and power. The empire was seductive, as is common among bullying systems. Compared to the Magi who were transparent in their dreams and embraced by wonder, Herod only lived in a shadow of reality.

At first, the Magi must have felt honored when a leader in the foreign land where they traveled requested their assistance. If they sensed anything off about Herod it was confirmed in a dream that left them with a choice, the kingdom of God or the empire? Many options in life are not very clear-cut, but some can seem fuzzy just because of who validates them – leaders, peers, etc. We lend support to the empire when we deny how we're leaving behind a planet that could become too warm for children born today to inhabit; when adults indulge in pornography and deny just how young some of the "women" and "men" they view are and the involvement of sex-trafficked youths in the industry; or when we ignore policies that make children seeking asylum from violence more vulnerable.

The Magi weren't insiders sharing the same faith or land as others surrounding them. What mattered was that they experienced God manifested, and then responded by taking another road home. They chose a path away from the cruel absurdity of the empire, a way they could remember if they'd get lost later in life. Let us we begin the new year in wonder of God's vast love for us, and the grace to recognize when we're called down another road. Happy New Year! Happy Monday!

### Prayer

Highly recommended.

### Share

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy