

Argyle LifeGroup Study Guide: Christmas Dilemma part 4, Dec. 23

1. Read Matthew 2:1-12. The particular dilemma we are looking at today deals with one problem. Should these wise men do what King Herod told them to do or should they do what they were warned about in their dream by God?

Can you remember a situation where you had to choose who to obey?

2. King Herod was a conniving, power-hungry politician. History tells us how he killed his family members that he thought were possible threats to his throne. So Herod would not hesitate to murder a potential Messiah that the Jews believed was coming to set them free from their oppression. How do you deal with someone like that?

3. Read Matthew 2:7-9. Usually nothing good happens when it's hidden in secrecy.

That's how Matthew describes how Herod met with the wise men : "secretly."

Why is it important to live our lives out in the open?

4. Read Matthew 2:12. To obey or not to obey, that is the question.

Or maybe "who should they obey or not obey?"

Should they obey Herod the man or obey the warning in the dream that came from God?

5. When should a Christian obey or disobey the government?

The scriptures are clear that Christians are to obey, pray for and support our governing authorities. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-2. Discuss.

6. Read Romans 13:1-2 and 13:6-7. Christians are to submit to the authority of the government, because when we do, we are actually submitting to God. But there are exceptions.

7. Read Acts 4:19-20 and Acts 5:29. John Stott said, "The principle is clear. We are to submit right up to the point where obedience to the state would entail disobedience to God.

But if the state commands what God forbids, or forbids what God commands,

then our plain Christian duty is to resist, not to submit, to disobey the state in order to obey God."