

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus Is the King Series, Lesson 33

Lesson Title: Satan Wants to Kill the King

Take Home Point: I won't let Satan steal 'cause
I know Jesus is real!

Warm-Up:

Have you ever had someone deliberately or unintentionally prevent you from accomplishing something you were about to do? Perhaps you had planned some well-deserved time away from work or other responsibilities, or intended to surprise someone with a gift. How did you feel? Our language captures some of the thoughts and feelings: "took away my opportunity," "stole my chance," "ruined my plans." What you had hoped for was gone, just as if it had been stolen. As a result, you were disappointed, even angry. Not only were you "robbed" of your accomplishment, you lost the happiness and joy that you anticipated for yourself and others.

Read: Matthew 2

Observation (What happened?):

How did the chief priests and teachers of the law know where the Christ was to be born?

Whose obedience saved the life of the child Jesus from Herod's schemes?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why was Herod (and all Jerusalem) disturbed when the Magi said they sought the new king?

Why do you think the religious leaders didn't check into happenings in Bethlehem based on their knowledge of the prophetic writings and the words of the Magi?

Insight:

1 Peter 5:8 says, "Keep your mind clear, and be alert. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion as he looks for someone to devour." Satan is pleased when he wreaks death and destruction. He wants to devour every person's joy, faith in God, and even their life. And he will use anyone he can. In Matthew 2, Satan uses Herod's fear of another king and his rage at being outwitted by the Magi to kill innocent children and grieve their families. No doubt Herod believed he was in control, but in reality his spiritual deadness prevented him from recognizing the devil's influence. It takes spiritual discernment to resist the temptation to think we are worthless or powerless, but the rest of 1 Peter 5 tells us that we can resist it and stand firm by God's mighty hand. That's *real* power!

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Where in your life are you applying the power of God to resist temptations or Satan lying to you about your relationship with Jesus? Specifically how are you applying it?