

MAKE ROOM

An Advent Reflection

A Voice in Ramah
Matthew 2:16-18
December 10, 2023

“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they were no more.” - Matthew 2:18

I. THE BATTLE BEGINS

- Herod’s fury mirrors the fury of Satan. It is mindless and bent on destruction (John 10:10; Rev. 12:12).
- The incarnation of the Son of God ramped up a war in the heavens that spills over on the earth (Mark 5:1-20; Rev. 12:1-17).
- Herod’s act is one of overkill. His desire is not to know the Christ but to keep the Christ from exercising his dominion over him (Vs. 16b).
- As “Rachel” wept over her children (Israel) in the time of deportation, the women of Bethlehem will weep over their children who are no more (Jer. 31:15).
- There are always innocent casualties in warfare, physical and spiritual (2 Sam. 12:1-15).

II. KILLING JESUS

- Jesus has come not only to save us but to rule as king over our lives, our thoughts, our imaginations, our emotions, our hopes, etc. (Matt. 10:34-39; Luke 6:46-49; 1 John 2:3-6).
- Some (churches, ministries, individuals) have, in their attempt to militate against Jesus’ lordship in their lives, essentially killed the Jesus revealed in Scripture (Matt. 16:13-19, 24-27).
- A question we might ask ourselves: “Am I more like Herod in this story, or more like Rachel?” (Rom. 2:1-5).

KNOW: We all fight a sin nature. We are capable of great duplicity as a result. Jesus has come to save us from the great evils we have done...or might do.

DO: Repent. Turn to the Savior who can, and will, save you from yourself.

Suggested Reading:

Is Christmas Unbelievable? Four Questions Everyone Should Ask About the World’s Most Famous Story by Rebecca McLaughlin (Available in the LifePoint Library)

For Children:

The Adventure of Christmas: A Journey Through Advent for the Whole Family by Ed Drew (Available in the LifePoint Library)

Prepare Him Room: Celebrating the Birth of Jesus Family Devotional by Marty Machowski (Available in the LifePoint Library)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Matthew 2:16-18

1. What led King Herod to this act of terror?
2. Why kill the male children 2 years old and younger? What was his intent?
3. Why didn’t God protect these innocent children?
4. We talked a bit Sunday about spiritual warfare. How real is this concept to you? Does it impact you, do you think?
5. Where were Jesus, Mary and Joseph by the time Herod’s troops started their slaughter? Why were they heading that way? (see Matthew 2:13-15).
6. Are there application points for you from this message/texts?