

For Reflection

When Are We Like Herod?

We recoil in horror when we think of Herod commanding that the little boys in Bethlehem—those two years of age and under—be put to death. In an effort to protect his throne, his power, Herod wanted to kill the young King for whom the wise men were looking. Herod symbolizes the selfishness that threatens what is good.

When we think only of ourselves and act selfishly, then we are letting self-interest rule our lives just like Herod. When we are uncomfortable with the truths the Lord has provided to help us turn from selfishness, then we too are opposing the Lord in our lives.

But there is another way that we can be like Herod. Just as Herod killed the little children, selfishness can hurt what is good in other people. Are there times when we unthinkingly harm tender states of good that are growing in the lives of those around us? Or make conscious decisions that fail to protect the innocence of others?

As we approach the celebration of the Lord's birth and look toward a new year, we can redouble our efforts to be like the shepherds and the wise men rather than Herod in the ways we respond to the Lord and the truths of His Word.