THE Grinch of Christmas
Matthew 2:3-4, 7-9, 16, 19-20
Sermon Outline

1. The Grinch (vs. 3-8):

1. Herod gave his full attention with the intent to do something about what was said to him.
2. Herod became emotionally distressed, perplexed and agitated, and all of Jerusalem with him, when the Magi explained that they were looking the King of the Jews. Because of who the Magi are to a king Herod obviously believed them.
3. God’s star stopped in Jerusalem, the heart of Judaism, the place of the temple (the central place, which began with Abraham, the future new Jerusalem), to announce to the leader of Rome and the leaders of the Jews that the Messiah is born.
4. Herod did not call the leaders of Israel to tell him where Jesus was, because they showed no effort to go find Jesus (probably in fear of Herod), but he did particularly reach out to the Magi and gave them specific instructions.
5. Herod carefully tried to learn exactly when Jesus was born by asking the Magi when they first saw the star. Their answer led to babies two years of age and younger dying.
6. Herod wanted to know when particularly the star continuously appeared.
7. The Magi were sent by Herod on a new agenda. The voice of God was still greater in the minds and hearts of these men.
8. Herod instructed them what to do when they found Jesus.
9. The Magi were not just to follow the star they must also inquire by seeking out information from among the people in Bethlehem. They were required to do so specifically so that they come to a complete accurate knowledge of Jesus’s location.
10. After careful and thorough scrutiny of all the information gathered the Magi must then discover the mystery of where Jesus is located.
11. Magi, who are accustomed to serving a king, were required by Herod to declare to him only what they discovered. Notice they were not told, after coming this far, to spend time with Jesus, get to know Jesus, worship Jesus. They were told to return to Herod and declare what they discovered.
12. Herod gave the false notion that he will seek Jesus for the same reason the Magi did. So, Herod knew the express purpose why the Magi came to Jerusalem.
13. Herod gave the false notion that he would come to the place where Jesus was and prostrate himself in reverence and adoration for the new king of Jerusalem. Because the Magi do not know the heart of Herod and they are accustomed to following the kings order they set out to do as they king ordered.

1. The Gift of Christmas Preserved (vs. 16):

1. Herod came to a full understanding of what the Magi did after finding Jesus.
2. When Herod realized that the Magi appeared to commit to do what he said but upon finding Jesus did not come back to him he became extremely angry.
3. Herod in his anger sent out his henchmen to execute all the babies from birth to two years old.

1. **The Gift of Christmas Restored Forever (vs. 19-21):**

1. The return of Christ to Nazareth (originally Bethlehem) was predicated on the death of Herod. God knew that there was no hope for Herod’s heart to ever change.
2. As soon as Herod died God gave special attention to Joseph for Jesus to be returned to the land of Israel. In other words, it was up to Joseph where he wanted to settle his family.
3. This could be Gabriel the archangel or it could be Christ. While Christ is fully human He is fully God.
4. This word tends to be associated with a light that is shining to a particular person so that only that person sees it. The angel appeared in a light to Joseph, not to Mary, to take Jesus back to the land of Israel.
5. Joseph was not allowed to continue sleeping (the angel appeared in a dream. The assumption is that he was asleep) his return was immediate. Egypt was not a place that God wanted Joseph, Mary and Jesus. Christ came for the Jews first (John 1:11). He went as a baby and left as a baby from Egypt.
6. The word ‘take’ can also mean for someone to take an office. Herod is dead the king of the Jews now return.
7. I admire Joseph’s obedience. No questions asked from Joseph. Moving around could not be easy, but he kept doing what God ordered.
8. Not just Herod died all those who conspired with him died.
9. After killing the babies Herod may not have stopped seeking to kill Jesus.