

Rebellion

- Rebellion: resisting authority

Active rebellion

Passive rebellion

- Both are rebellion
- What do active and passive rebellion against God look like?

Rebellion in Disguise

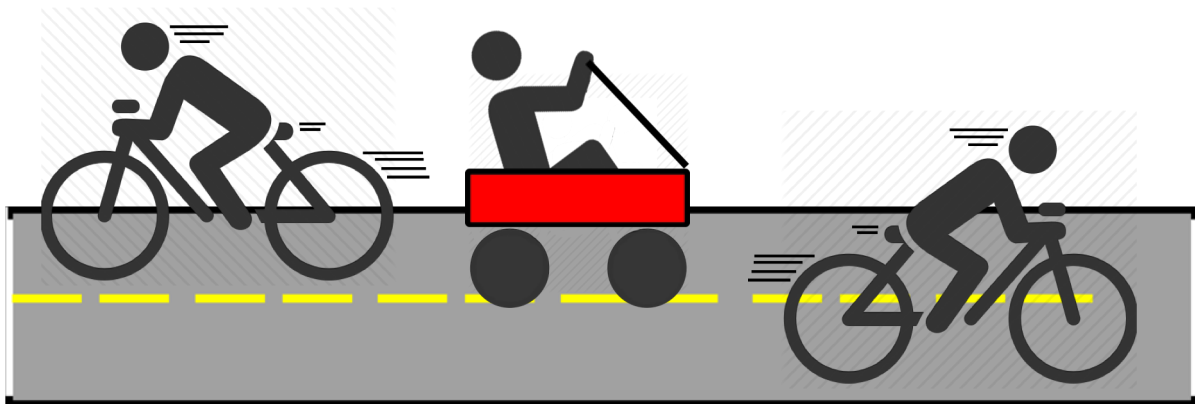
Matthew 2:1-12

Chinese: page 1558

Spanish: page 1214

Brown: page 966

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The Gospel according to Matthew so far...

- Matthew 1:1-17
 - Genealogy of Jesus, the Son of David
 - With mystery... “**the father of**” 38 times
 - And then:
 - “Jacob the father of Joseph, **the husband of** Mary, and Mary was **the mother of** Jesus who is called the Messiah.”
- Matthew 1:18-25
 - Jesus, the Son of Mary, becomes a Son of David through the **courageous act of faith** of Joseph

Matthew 2:1-12

1-2: Magi seek to worship the newborn King of the Jews

3-4: • Babylon had a community of wise men,

5-6: as well as many Jews

Chinese: page 1558

“I see him, but not now;

Spanish: page 1214

7-8: I behold him, but not near.

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9-11: A star will come out of Jacob;

12: a scepter will rise out of Israel.” *Numbers 24:17*

- The rising of a star meant to them that the newborn king of the Jews had risen
- Jerusalem is the logical place to find him
- They didn’t worship Herod!

Magi = wise men, stargazers

Matthew 2:1-12

1-2: Magi seek to worship the newborn King of the Jews

3-4: King Herod & Jerusalem are troubled by the Magi

5-6: • Herod was violent toward anyone who threatened his rule

7-8: • Now prominent wealthy foreigners came to worship

9-11: someone else as king!

12: • Herod used the Bible to rebel, not to worship

Matthew 2:1-12

1-2: Magi seek to worship the newborn King of the Jews

3-4: King Herod & Jerusalem are troubled by the Magi

5-6: Religious leaders know the prophecy:

Messiah (King of the Jews) will be born in Bethlehem

7-8: • Messiah=King of Jews: from Judah (Son of David)

9-11: • Religious leaders knew better than they worshiped

12: • Magi worshiped better than they knew

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Messiah (King of the Jews) will be born in Bethlehem

7-8: King Herod plots to destroy the baby king

9-11: • Herod wanted to prevent others from worshipping

12: Jesus because this would take away his own glory

- If we aren't seeking to worship,
more knowledge may make matters worse!

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Messiah (King of the Jews) will be born in Bethlehem

7-8: King Herod plots to destroy the baby king

9-11: Magi find Jesus and worship Him

12: • Now the star must be miraculous

- Over-joyed!
- Dramatic for powerful foreigners to worship
this poor baby!
- Expensive gifts fit for a king, as prophesied

Matthew 2:1-12

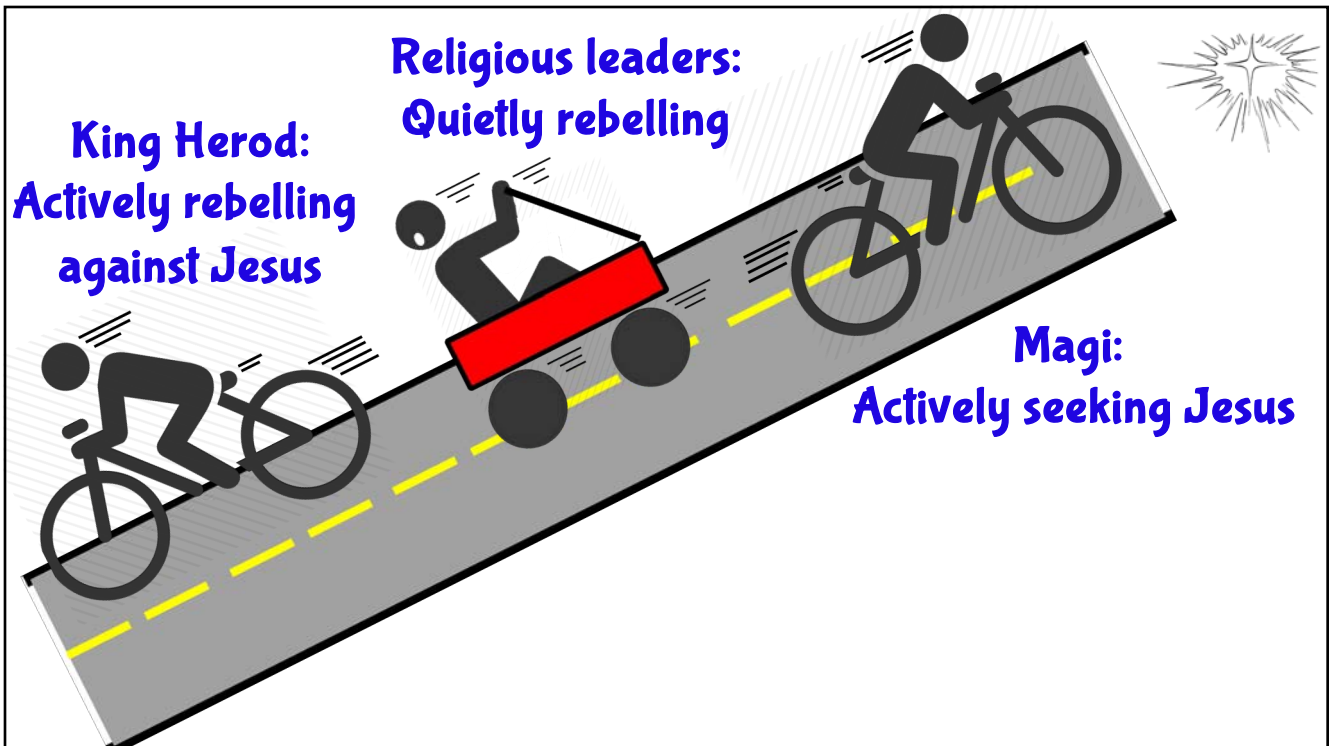
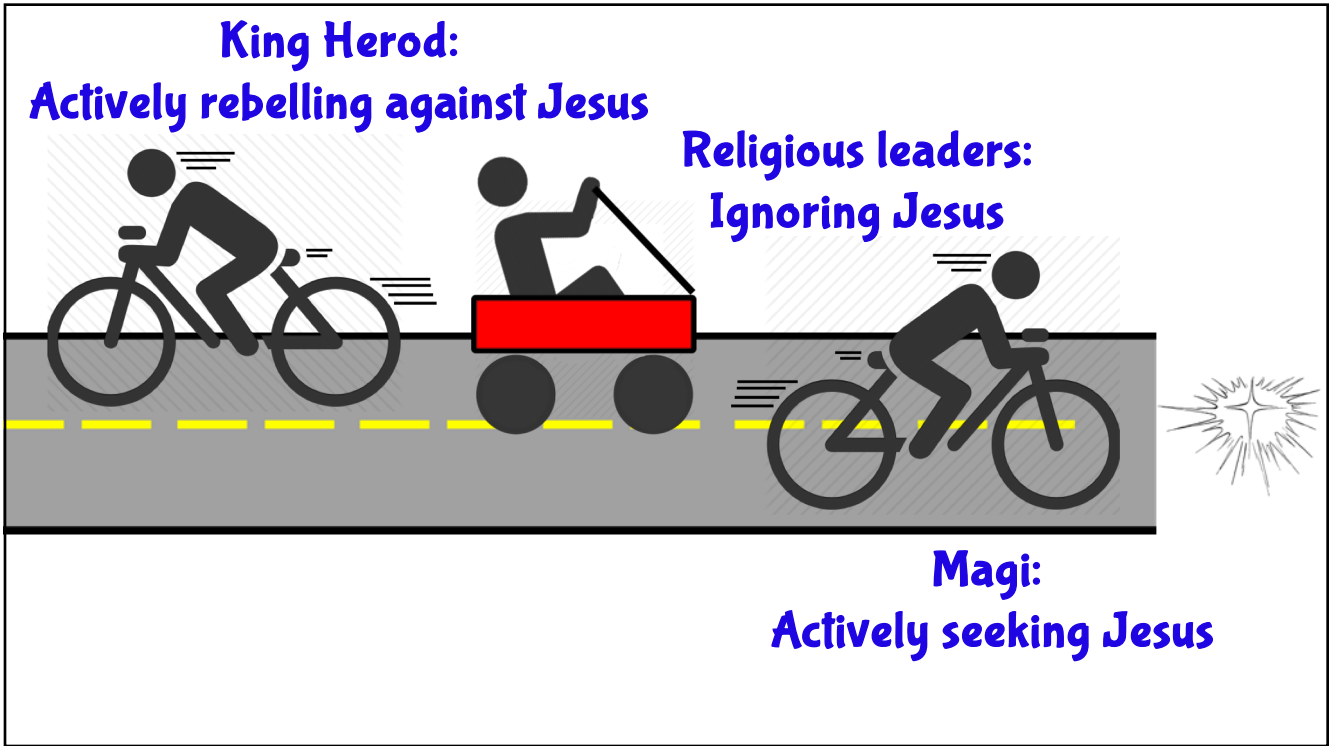
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- 7-8: King Herod plots to destroy the baby king
- 9-11: Magi find Jesus and worship Him
- 12: Magi don't tell King Herod, and they head home

The Big Idea

**The joy of knowing God
is for those who seek Jesus to worship Him**

**Not to seek Jesus in order to worship Him
is rebellion in disguise**

**It looks neutral
but it is not**



Ignoring Jesus is rebellion in disguise

- “Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.” *Matthew 12:30*
- “See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and **they will condemn him to death.**” *Matthew 20:18*
- “Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and they **schemed to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him.**” *Matthew 26:3*

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Application

- **Seek Jesus**
 - Magi are presented to us as a model to follow
 - Traveled far, asked questions, followed good input, found Jesus
 - “Anyone who comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who **earnestly seek him.**” *Hebrews 11:6*
 - Like a drowning person seeks air...
 - God can use all sorts of things to help seekers find Jesus
 - Best thinking of the day (even if flawed)
 - Life circumstances
 - A neurotic, power-hungry leader
 - Smart people without faith
 - **Prophecy & Scripture & miracles & Christians**
 - God’s design: Those who aren’t looking tend not to find...

Application

- **Seek Jesus**
- **To worship Him**
 - The goal is love and worship (not knowledge and action)
 - True love and worship must include knowledge and action
 - Sometimes we substitute knowledge for love and worship
 - Sometimes we substitute action for love and worship
 - 1. Rejoice in His glory**
 - His character, actions, promises, ...
 - 2. Put myself beneath Him** → forehead to the ground
 - He is worth more, has higher authority, is more glorious **by far**
 - I need Him, His mercy & His justice. He doesn’t need me
 - 3. Offer my best to Him**

Application

- **Seek Jesus**
- **To worship Him**

What does it look like for you to seek Jesus to worship Him?

- Do you know better than you worship, or do you worship better than you know?
- The goal is worship (expressed in head, heart, and hands) rather than knowledge, emotion, or action
 - Religious actions (like coming to church or reading the Bible) and Good actions without worship are drained of their value
- Like a drowning person wants air!

The Big Idea

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