



Your story matters.



Onboard or
OFF THE RAILS?

December 26, 2021

PASTOR AARON ANDREWS

MYRC.CHURCH



"ONBOARD OR OFF THE RAILS?"

Pastor Aaron Andrews

MESSAGE NOTES

Welcome to post-Christmas! Not sure what that looks like at your house today, but we're going to see what it looked like after the first Christmas.

1. What do we do with Christmas?

- a) Honestly, we're a lot _____ than we were four weeks ago! We know a lot more about Jesus and what He came to accomplish. Many of you have taken significant spiritual steps this month.
- b) We're going to take one last, not so talked about...or beloved, look at Christmas today.

2. King Herod (Matthew 2:1a)

- a) Herod was a part Jewish, _____ king of the state of Judea under the authority of Rome.
- b) He was, in many ways, the _____ of his destiny, going where he wanted, and living as he pleased.

3. The Wise Men (Matthew 2:1b-2)

- a) Yep, that's right, the famous " _____ " have arrived in Jerusalem!
- b) As it turns out, no one else had been paying much attention, and Jesus' birth had not caused anyone to take notice or connect any prophetic dots. (Note: Matthew 2:7-8)
- c) They find Jesus, they "worshipped" him and gave him their gifts just as they had planned. This is where things start to go _____ (Note: Matthew 2:9-12)

4. King Herod's Response (Matthew 2:16)

- a) He uses the timetable that he had gotten from his earlier conversation about when the star had appeared, and then went to work. (Matthew 2:16)
- b) Let's take a minute to think about what Herod _____ did.

5. What Does This Mean for Me?

- a) Jesus' birth is an amazing gift to each of us.
- b) This gift also creates _____
- c) We are each caught up in this tension; will I surrender to King Jesus or will I go my own way?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or hard copy).*

**[MyRC.link/connect](https://myrc.link/connect) or text *riverside* to 94000*



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: 5 quick answers – GO!

Cozy sweaters or pajamas? Snoop for presents or be surprised? Eggnog or hot chocolate? Gift cards or cash? Mittens or gloves?

1. As you look back at the series, *Christmas at Riverside*, how have you grown in your understanding of Jesus and His mission?
2. Pastor Aaron described Herod as “the master of his destiny, going where he wanted, and living as he pleased.” Each of us has tried to be the master of our own destiny” at one time or another. What has been the outcome?
3. *We Three Kings*, tells the story found in [Matthew 2:1-12](#). Take a couple of minutes to read the lyrics of this carol found at <https://myrc.link/We3Kings>. How do the lyrics celebrate Jesus’ birth and mission?
4. Read [Matthew 2:16-18](#) to see how Herod violently responded to the news of Jesus’ birth. Pastor Aaron explained that while Jesus’ birth “is an amazing gift to each of us...this gift also creates conflict.” How have you seen conflict arise because of Jesus’ gift in your life?
5. What role will surrendering to King Jesus play in your life as we head into 2022? Any changes you need to make?

Day One: [Psalm 14](#)

Day Two: [Proverbs 14](#)

Day Three: [Joshua 14](#)

Day Four: [Isaiah 14](#)

Day Five: [Acts 14](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE



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