

Personal Application and Conversations

1. *What's troubling you?*
2. *From your perspective today, how might Herod the Great have found comfort from the prophetic message about the birth of Jesus?*
3. *Why do you think Herod referred to this potential king of the Jews as the Christ?*
4. *Think about where you go for answers to whatever is troubling you. Where does God in Christ fit on that list?*
5. *How does prophecy help you appreciate the first and second advent of Christ?*
6. *How does your shepherd bring peace and calm to your anxieties?*



What's troubling you?

Matthew 2:3-6

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December 4, 2022



Nothing's troubling me at the moment. Like the song goes, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come." It's Christmas. What could be troubling me? That is, until something I was counting on fails me. In endless loops, the news in vivid colors reminds us of a world gone mad. So, just ignore it. But it didn't work that way for King Herod the Great, the appointed governor of Judea. How do you identify with anxiety brought on by Magi who came to town in search of a new king of your territory? Or on a smaller scale, you hear that layoffs are expected in your place of business? It's hard to be objective when any loss of power strikes close to home. How does the promised "*ruler who will shepherd my people*" fit into the big picture of all the things that trouble us?

Any loss of power can be very troubling (2:3)

Old answers to current troubles (2:5-6; cf. Micah 5:2)

God's will is declared in prophetic words for those with ears to hear

It's important to know where to look for answers to what's troubling (2:4)