

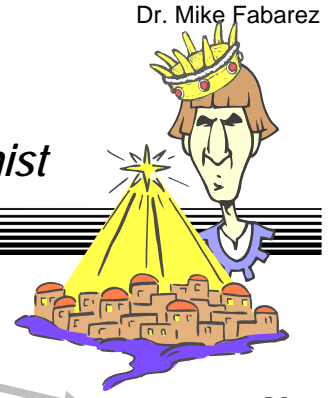
Date: December 22 & 23, 2007
Text: Matthew 2:1-23
Topic: Courage. Christmas.
Series: None
CD #: 07-38

Focal Point Radio Ministries

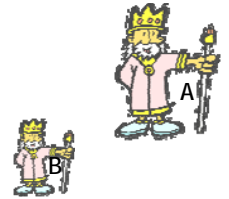
Dr. Mike Fabarez

Christmas & Worldly "Heroes"

The Enduring Clash with Nativity's Antagonist



1. Understand _____



2. Prepare _____



3. Be _____

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **1 Corinthians 16:9** and **John 15:18-20**. What specific examples can you cite which illustrate the reality that with the exaltation, promotion or presentation of Christ comes mounting opposition?

How does the Christmas holiday intensify this problem?

2. What are some of the poor responses we Christians sometimes have when we encounter people who malign or disparage Christianity?

What negative consequences do we incur when we respond unbiblically or unwisely to people's antagonism?

3. Read **Proverbs 26:4-5**. Obviously there is an appropriate time for both of these contrasted responses. How do you think one wisely discerns the difference?

4. Who are the "Herods" you are praying for? Write out a specific prayer that asks God to do his transforming work in their minds and hearts.

Read Through the Bible in a Year

Here's this
week's schedule:

December 23rd

Zech. 1-2 & Rev. 14

December 24th

Zech. 3-4 & Rev. 15

December 25th

Zech. 5-6 & Rev. 16

December 26th

Zech. 7-8 & Rev. 17

December 27th

Zech. 9-10 & Rev. 18

December 28th

Zech. 11-12 & Rev. 19

December 29th

Zech. 13-14 & Rev. 20

December 30th

Mal. 1-2 & Rev. 21

Here is a list of other CDs available from past sermons which may assist you in your further study of today's message.

CD # 0619 – **How Do We Decipher Truth in an Age of Conspiracy, Distrust & Relativism?**

CD # 0530 – **Grappling with Doubts by Revisiting God's Imprimatur on the Truth**

CD # 8917 – **The Wise Men: Then & Now**

CD # 0023 - 0028 – **The Big Questions** (a six-part series on the veracity of the Christian faith)

Here are some resources that will assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in this week's sermon.

(To see other recommendations by Pastor Mike related to this and other topics go to www.CompassBooks.org.)

Bruce, F. F. **The Defense of the Gospel in the New Testament, revised edition.** Eerdmans, 1977.

Carson, D. A. **How Long O Lord? Reflections on Suffering & Evil.** Baker Books, 1990.

_____. **Telling the Truth: Evangelizing Postmoderns.** Zondervan, 2000.

Craig, William Lane. **Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics.** Crossway Books, 1994.

Geisler, Norman L. **Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics.** Baker Books, 1999.

Hefley, James and Marti. **By Their Blood: Christian Martyrs of the 20th Century.** Baker Books, 1996.

Lewis, C.S. **The Problem of Pain.** Macmillan Publishing, 1962.

McCartney, Dan G. **Why Does It Have to Hurt? The Meaning of Christian Suffering.** P & R Publishing, 1998.

McKeehan, Toby and Mark Heimermann. **Jesus Freaks: Stories of Those Who Stood for Jesus.** Albury Publishing, 1999.

St. James, Rebecca. **Sister Freaks: Stories of Women Who Gave Up Everything for God.** FaithWords, 2005

Water, Mark, ed. **The New Encyclopedia of Christian Martyrs.** Baker Books, 2001.

Wiersbe, Warren, ed. **Classic Sermons on Suffering.** Kregel Publishing, 1984.

Wilson, Bill, ed. **A Ready Defense: The Best of Josh McDowell.** Thomas Nelson, 1993.

Woodbridge, John. **Ambassadors For Christ: Distinguished Representatives of the Message in the World.** MBI, 1994.