

# Encountering the Incarnate

Matthew 2:1-12



# Encountering the Incarnate

Herod: the intimidated king





# Point to Ponder

Pride seeks to silence the threat of Jesus' authority.



# Encountering the Incarnate

Scribes: the indifferent scholars







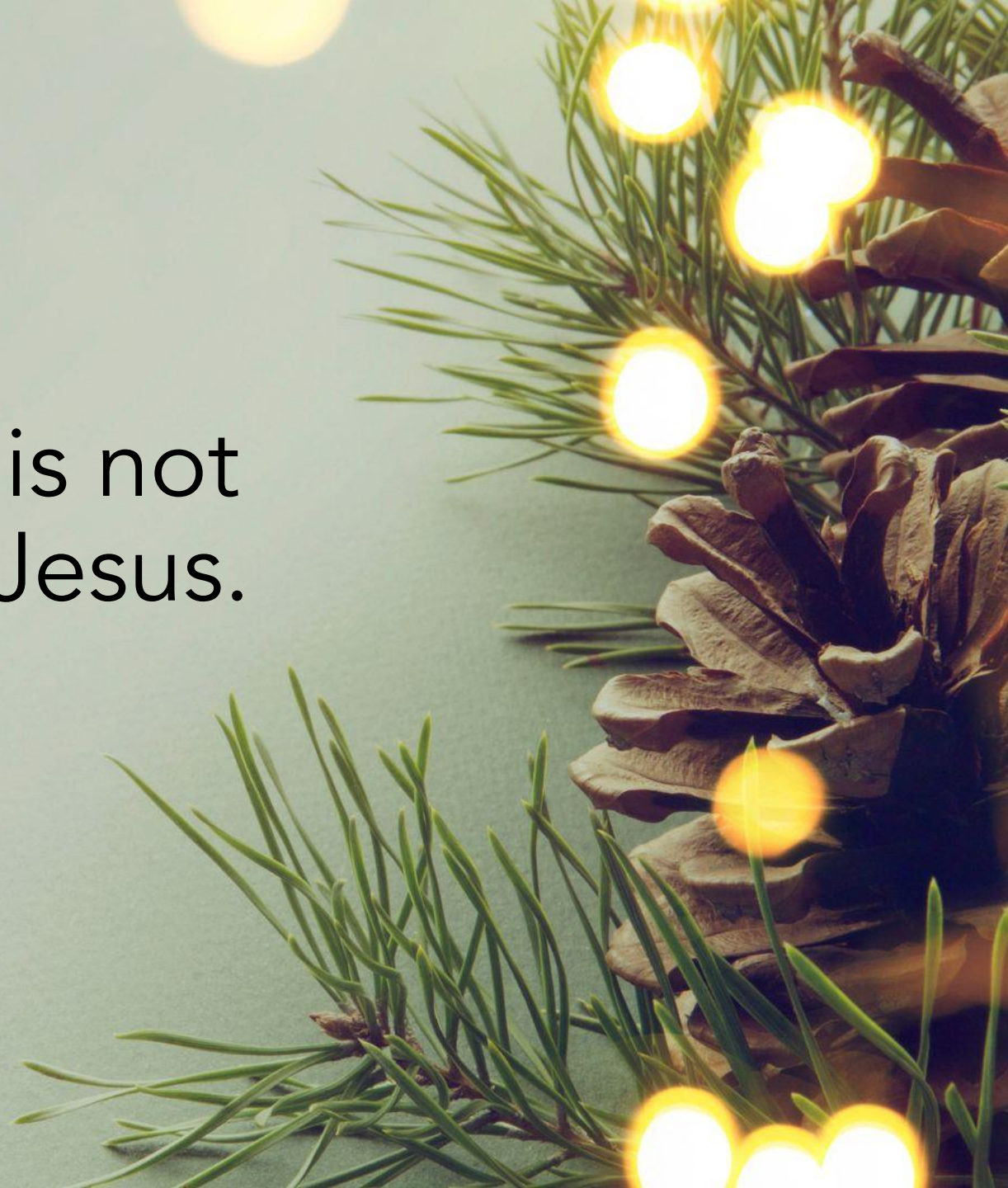
# Micah 5:2

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of  
Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old,  
from ancient days.



# Point to Ponder

Knowing about Jesus is not  
the same as knowing Jesus.



# Encountering the Incarnate

Bethlehem: the insignificant village





# Point to Ponder

God chooses the weak to accomplish His good purposes.





# Encountering the Incarnate

Magi: the inquisitive outsiders



# Point to Ponder

God's gift of salvation has  
been made available to all.







# Benediction

Praise be to God for showing His love  
among us by sending His one and  
only Son into the world so that we  
might live through Him.

1 John 4:9

**"Encountering the Incarnate"**  
Matthew 2:1-12 - *Pastor Scott Gnuse*

- Herod: the \_\_\_\_\_ king

Point to Ponder: Pride seeks to silence the threat of Jesus' authority.

- Scribes: the \_\_\_\_\_ scholars

Point to Ponder: Knowing about Jesus is not the same as knowing Jesus.

- Bethlehem: the \_\_\_\_\_ village

Point to Ponder: God chooses the weak to accomplish His good purposes.

- Magi: the \_\_\_\_\_ outsiders

Point to Ponder: God's gift of salvation has been made available to all.



**Reflection Questions:**

1. How does pride suppress the truth about Jesus? How is this seen in Herod's response to the news about Jesus' birth?
2. Why is indifference towards Jesus so concerning? What warning should you find in the response of the scribes?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-32. Why does God operate so differently from man? What encouragement should this bring you?
4. Why do you think the first people to know of Jesus' birth were shepherds and magi? What hope does this bring for you and others?
5. What response do you need to take in light of today's passage? Do you need to repent and receive the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ? Or do you need to rejoice with greater depth at the news of Jesus' birth?