

CHRISTMAS, IT'S ALL GOOD – PART 2: LEVEL PLAYING FIELD **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020**

The original message of Jesus was so compelling that everyone who heard it wanted it to be true (well, not everyone). Maybe the version you've heard isn't as captivating. If Jesus truly offered an invitation that left no one out, would you consider it really good news?

READ MATTHEW 2:1-17

- Do you agree there are "oughts" and "ought nots" that apply to all people in all places at all times? If so, what are some examples? If not, why not?
- How might a king perceive the rules of life are an unlevel playing field to his/her advantage?
- Why might Herod have been deeply distressed about the birth of a "newborn king of the Jews"?
- Why do you think the Jewish religious leaders didn't see the news of Jesus' birth as good news?
- What are some ways people who play by a different set of rules use deceit and manipulation in efforts to get their way?
- Why do you think the wise men were filled with joy upon finding Jesus?
- How do you think you would respond God told you to go home by a different route? Do you think the wise men were disappointed they couldn't share the good news? Do you think they shared the good news with people once they arrived home?
- What does the "wide sweep" of Herod to eliminate Jesus as threat reveal about his commitment to maintain an unlevel playing field that benefitted him?
- What are some ways we hold others to a standard we don't hold ourselves to?
- What next step will you take to level the playing field in relationship to/with God?

GOOD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS IF...