Herod's King

Mt. 2: 1-16

Intro. A. Tall story of coming of wise men.
B. Striking fact is that into world's most beautiful story comes one of ugliest men.
C. a baby sleeps in a barn attended by animals and 5 mi. to north a great king paces floor of palace.
D. News disturbing. King of Jews? I am king of Jews and he was!
1. Since 37 B.C.
2. By political expedients - Sides with Caesars, Antony, then Octavius.
3. By relig. expedients - Embraces Judaism and restores temple.
4. By domestic expedients - 10 wives.
5. and by murder. Like Macbeth, kills to gain and to keep. 17 yr. old, 80 yr. old, wife, sons, leaders.
6. Now 68 yrs. old and sick. Goes to Callirhoe Hot Springs but to no avail. Instructions to sister, Salome about mourning at death. Dead at 70.
E. Same old method - Decrees death of Bethlehem infants. So steeped in blood no end to it.
F. Herod's plan fails. His son Antipas kills Jno. Baptist and faces Jesus. Grandson Herod Agrippa I kills James, imprisons Peter. Great grandson Herod Agrippa II meets Paul & hears Gospel.
G. What's the point of all this?

I Something Has to Be Done about Jesus.
A. Can't ignore him, as though he did not exist. Note how Jesus kept confronting his family in every generation. From the day the wise men came it never left the mind.
B. Can't get rid of him. He and his family with God's support and power tried for 4 generations.

1. and where are the Herods? In unmarked graves.
2. And where is Christ? Everywhere. Enquiring artists and singers. Challenges the best minds, get SF love of the children. World touched to remember his coming and his death resurrection. Walk in order to carol his praise.

C. But what can be done? You have to answer for self. Open denial or formal acceptance and put on shelf.

II Because Christ Was and Is a Threat to Herods World.

A. A threat to every gov't, kingdom, home, built on violence, injustice, greed.

B. a threat to every relationship that is base and impure.

C. a threat to every act and attitude that soils image of God in man.

D. A threat to the expedient life rather than being guided by right.

E. Violence, vulgarity, disregard for life, self-exaltation. These pass

F. Herods own good time and way, thrones crumble, homes erased, base and ugly in life disappear - man & God abide forever. Tongues of malice and falsehood stilled; rush of life to get and hold slowed to a walk; empty laughter to tears; God shall make reign in minds and hearts.

Concl- A. For all his sin and shame, Herod saw one thing clearly. Something must be done.

B. And he done now. Year dying in the night. Soon all over.