

# Matthew 2:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

## Analysis

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Herod's request appears reasonable but conceals homicidal intent. This demonstrates that evil often masquerades as piety, requiring spiritual discernment to detect. The irony is profound: Herod asks to 'worship' the King he plans to murder, showing how religious profession without heart transformation is worthless. God would sovereignly protect Christ despite this scheme.

## Historical Context

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The magi's journey from the East likely took months. Herod's request seemed innocent—wanting to worship the newborn king—but revealed his paranoid tyranny when he later slaughtered Bethlehem's children (Matthew 2:16).

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How can we develop discernment to recognize false professions of faith and hidden evil?
2. What does this passage teach about God's sovereign protection of His elect despite human schemes?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ πέμψας αὐτῷ εἰς Βηθλεὲμ εἶπεν Πορευθέντες  
**And** **he sent** **him** **to** **Bethlehem** **and said** **Go**  
G2532 G3992 G846 G1519 G965 G2036 G4198

ἀκριβῶς ἐξετάσατε περὶ τοῦ παιδίου· ἐπὰν δὲ  
**diligently** **and search** **for** **the young child** **when** **and**  
G199 G1833 G4012 G3588 G3813 G1875 G1161

εὑρητε ἀπαγγείλατέ μοι ὅπως κάγὼ ἐλθὼν  
**ye have found** **him bring** **me** **that** **also** **I may come**  
G2147 G518 G3427 G3704 G2504 G2064

προσκυνήσω αὐτῷ  
**and worship** **him**  
G4352 G846

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