

WHAT DO YOU  
**FEAR?**



**“It gets darker and darker and then Jesus is Born”**

**-Wendell Berry**



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## Matthew 2:1-12 The Message

1-2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, “Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him.”



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## Matthew 2:1-12 The Message

3-4 When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

## Matthew 2:1-12 The Message

5-6 They told him, “Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land,  
no longer bringing up the rear.

From you will come the leader  
who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel.”

## Matthew 2:1-12 The Message

7-8 Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, “Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I’ll join you at once in your worship.”

## Matthew 2:1-12 The Message

9-10 Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

## Matthew 2:1-12 The Message

11 They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

## Matthew 2:1-12 The Message

**12 In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.**

## Matthew 2:16-18 The Message

16-18 Herod, when he realized that the scholars had tricked him, flew into a rage. He commanded the murder of every little boy two years old and under who lived in Bethlehem and its surrounding hills. (He determined that age from information he'd gotten from the scholars.)

## Matthew 2:16-18 The Message

That's when Jeremiah's revelation was fulfilled:

A sound was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and much lament.

Rachel weeping for her children,  
Rachel refusing all solace,  
Her children gone,  
dead and buried.



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## Mark 4:35-41 The Message

35-38 Late that day he said to them, “Let’s go across to the other side.” They took him in the boat as he was. Other boats came along. A huge storm came up. Waves poured into the boat, threatening to sink it. And Jesus was in the stern, head on a pillow, sleeping! They roused him, saying, “Teacher, is it nothing to you that we’re going down?”

## Mark 4:35-41 The Message

**39-40 Awake now, he told the wind to pipe down and said to the sea, “Quiet! Settle down!” The wind ran out of breath; the sea became smooth as glass.**

**Jesus reprimanded the disciples: “Why are you such cowards? Don’t you have any faith at all?”**

## Mark 4:35-41 The Message

**41 They were in absolute awe, staggered.**

**“Who is this, anyway?” they asked. “Wind and sea at his beck and call!”**



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**“Wendell Berry once said, at a coffeehouse in Mill Valley on a dark, rainy December day,**

**‘It gets darker and darker, and then Jesus is born.’**

**That line came back to me, from out of nowhere, and I decided to practice radical hope, hope in the face of not having a clue.”**

**-Anne Lamont**

**Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith, p.39**

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