

Biggest Losers in the Bible **Herod**

He was a very successful builder and politician.

- Herod was famous for his many spectacular building projects, many of which encouraged hellenization of the Jews, which many didn't like.
- Herod proved to be a master of maintaining favor with different Roman leaders, while also able to avoid popular Jewish uprisings.

He failed miserably as a family man.

- Way too many wives naturally contributed to internal power struggles.
- Herod had no problem with killing suspect family members, prompting Augustus Caesar to say, *It is better to be Herod's hus than his huio.*
- Herod's dynasty includes several people hostile to God's people besides himself, most noticeably Antipas, Herodias, Agrippa I.

He tried to kill Jesus but just ended up killing innocent children.

- Herod sought to trick the magi into helping him find Jesus so he can kill Him, but God intervenes and Herod is tricked, Matt. 2:1-16.
- Herod's brutality is seen in the "Massacre of the Innocents," as he has all the male babies in Bethlehem killed. This recalls other failed attempts to eradicate the "seed" (Pharaoh, Haman).



What if Herod had actually desired to go to Bethlehem to bow before Jesus?

Can we be a bit like Herod by having our priorities out of whack?