

When Pete Stoyanovich kicked a 54-yard field goal against the Denver Broncos a few months back, it was an epiphany. The Chiefs realized that they were unbeatable. The Broncos went into a tailspin. And the rest of the world, which has other matters to worry about besides football, didn't notice. An epiphany is like that. It is a manifestation of power and truth, which causes people to respond in different ways. Some people embrace it; some people reject it; some people don't even notice.

The epiphany we celebrate today actually has to do more with Jesus Christ than with professional football. On this day, when Magi visited from the orient, Jesus was revealed as Lord of all the nations, not just of Bethlehem, not just of Judea, not just of the orient, but all the nations. That revelation caused people to respond in the same three ways. Some embraced it, like the magi, who brought Jesus gifts and did homage. Some rejected it, like Herod, who began killing babies out of fear. And the rest of world hadn't noticed.

We have many epiphanies in life--events which can shake our world. Sometimes it's frightening news from a doctor, from the police, or from a family member; other times it's great news from a teacher, a friend, or an employer. But we may respond in any one of the three ways: We may embrace it for inspiration; we may reject it out of fear; or we may ignore it.

But there are consequences. If we ignore an epiphany, it will catch up with us eventually. If we fight it, we will lose, just like Herod, just like the Broncos and all such foes who deserve our condemnation. But if when an epiphany happens, we listen to it, hold it, think about it, and learn from it, it can make us stronger than ever before. Like the Chiefs.