

A Time to Flee



Matthew 2:13-15

Introduction: Is there a time to _____? Of course, there is. Consider the following case scenarios:

Well, there are times in life when the best recourse is to flee a situation, and this is what we discover in our text today. Joseph is going to take his _____, and they are going to flee from the madman King Herod.

1. A _____ from God – v. 13

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”

A. A _____

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”

When we sleep, we _____! Do you like to dream?

One thing I will tell you is that I have never had God speak to me in a _____ that I am aware of or remember. However, the verse before us tells us that while Joseph was asleep that an angel of the Lord spoke to Him in a dream.

One truth we do know is that God often spoke and revealed His plans to individuals in dreams. We see this throughout both the Old and New Testaments. Consider all these cases:

Now, how does God _____ today? Primary God speaks and reveals His plan for our lives through His Word. How does God primarily speak today? Through His word.

The next thing we find in our text is...

B. A _____

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

The angel of the Lord gave Joseph a message from _____. Are you aware that the word "angel" in Greek "aggelos" means, " _____ , one sent to announce or _____ "? Angels then, are God's _____.

Important point: Angels do not _____ the message; they only deliver God's message.

Warning: Be careful about those who tell you that they are receiving messages from _____.

Galatians 1:8-9 - 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Now, the message that Joseph received from the angel of the Lord was to flee Bethlehem and go to Egypt. This was a very simple and direct message.

C. A _____

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

The warning from the angels was that King Herod sought to _____ the young child. Herod wanted the real King of the Jews dead. Remember he was a very wicked person.

Herod sought to kill anyone who got in his way. Ambition will often blind a man, and he will convince himself that no matter what he does it's okay – even murder.

2. **A _____ who obeys – v. 14**

14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt,

A. He _____ (action on Joseph's part)

14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt,

Please note that I didn't call this second point, an _____ from a father, but I called it, an action from a husband. Joseph was acting out of his role as Mary's husband and was protecting her and her child.

Joseph didn't think he could _____ Herod, nor could he _____ his family, or _____ and wait. No, he knew he needed to obey the guidance and direction of the angel. Joseph knew that the message ultimately came from God.

B. He took the young _____ and His mother

14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt,

Our text tells us that Joseph " _____ " and acted upon the message he received immediately. Underline the words, "He took..."

How important is _____ ? Do we give obedience only lip service, or do we put shoe leather to our obedience?

Delayed obedience often causes some terrible _____

This message is directed to all of us. _____ is not only for the children in this service, those under 18 years of age. No, obedience is a message for all the children of God. All of us from birth to death need to learn obedience. Joseph sets a great example for us all to follow.

C. Departed to _____

14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt,

Egypt was located about _____ miles from Bethlehem. And we know the result. Joseph. Mary and Jesus all arrived safely in Egypt.

3. A _____ that is fulfilled – v. 15

15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

A. Stayed in _____ until the death of Herod

15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

How long did Jesus, Mary, and Joseph stay in Egypt? They were there until the time Herod died. Herod died somewhere between March _____ and April _____ 4 B.C.

Jewish Historian Josephus records Herod's _____. He wrote, "a loathsome disease descended upon the ruler as a judgment from God on account of his sins. He describes the horrible details —burning fever, ulcerated entrails, foul discharges, convulsions, stench, etc. (Antiquities 17.6.5).

B. That it might be _____

15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

We read in verse 15, "Out of Egypt I called My Son"

Hosea 11:1 - "When Israel was a child, I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son."

What is interesting is that this prophecy first relates to _____ coming out of Egypt but has a second-fold prophecy in the person of _____. As God called Israel out of Egypt, now God calls His Son out of Egypt.

I think what we discover here is that Israel's _____ comes out of Egypt. Deuteronomy 18 speaks of a greater prophet than Moses to come. Well, that is fulfilled here in the person of Jesus Christ – the Son called out of Egypt.

Conclusion: Throughout these three verses there have been _____ of truth that we can allow to slip by without notice. I don't want that to happen. I want to reiterate them for us as I wrap up. Here are the truths:

1. God used angels to bring _____ . Know this but be careful with this information.
2. God speaks to us in _____ and visions. This too is good to know, but I encourage all of us to stick with His _____ first.
3. God expects us to _____ His word. We must act on what God reveals. Like Joseph, we need to obey immediately.
4. God does _____ His people (especially His Son).
5. Bad people will _____ – Herod died! People probably threw a party when that evil character passed away.
6. Prophecy will be _____ (every one of them).
7. There is a time to _____ , especially when something bad is about to happen.