

Sermon Supplement

Matthew 2:13-23

A Christmas Litany: A Suffering Messiah of Love

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

1. **Main Idea of the Passage:** Christmas and the whole of Christianity is about the Love of Jesus – the redeemer husband, the one who stops the weeping by his weeping, the Suffering Servant.
2. **Melodic Line of the Book:** “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20).

KEY WORDS/THEMES

1. **Fulfill (*plēroō*) vv. 15, 17, 23** – The use of ‘to fulfill’ is very typical of Matthew, found in ten different passages (see also, 1:22; 4:14; 8:17; 12:17; 13:35; 21:4; 27:9). Four are in the birth narratives and set up one of the main themes for the rest of the book – that God sovereignly controls all of history in accordance with his perfect plan. “The primary method Matthew uses is typology; that is, the events of Jesus’ birth are analogous to the way God has worked during the old covenant” (Grant Osborne) – people, events, institutions, and objects that point to Christ.
2. **Dream (*onar*) vv. 19, 22** – There are five different dream scenes in Matthew’s birth narrative (see also, 1:20; 2:12, 13). This was a common event in the OT (e.g., Gen. 28:12) and was a way for God to reveal his will and guide human actions in accordance with his plan and purposes.
3. **Nazarene (*Nazōraios*) v. 23** – There have been many theories as to the meaning behind this title, but Matthew is probably referring to a general prophetic theme which described the Messiah as a rejected, afflicted, suffering servant (e.g., Isa. 53). Nazareth was a small backwater town that was not even incorporated in OT times.

STRUCTURE/OUTLINE OF THE SERMON

- I. Messiah on the Run (vv. 13-15)
- II. Messiah Hunted Down (vv. 16-18)
- III. Messiah Rejected by Humanity (vv. 19-23)
- IV. Jesus and the Storyline of the Bible
- V. Conclusion

GOSPEL CENTRALITY

Jesus bore shame, humiliation, rebuke, rejection, alienation, isolation, loneliness, affliction, testing, and death, SO that we could be accepted, adopted, forgiven, cleansed, renewed, purified, healed, made whole, and LOVED.

KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN

- Do you see areas in your life where you are trying to do better, try harder, and merit God's love for you?
- Reflect on the difference it has made in your life when you rest in the love of Jesus and his finished work on your behalf versus trying to earn his love.
- Who are the people in your life that need to hear and respond to the good news of the gospel? What opportunities might you have in the coming days to share this news with them?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

- Thank God that he has sent the Redeemer Husband, the One who stops the weeping by His weeping, the Suffering Servant.
- Pray that in 2021 we as a church would go ever deeper into the gospel and we would grow in our faithfulness to proclaim Jesus to a lost world – our lost friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors.
- Pray for those among your family, friends, and community that have not put their trust in Jesus, that God would reveal Himself to them, and they would give their life to Him.