

Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church
Matthew 2:13-15 | The New Exodus
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WELCOME:

- Please turn your Bibles to Matthew 2
- Bibles in back—our gift to you.

REVIEW:

Over the past two Sundays, the Holy Spirit taught us how God Himself prepared generations and generations and generations of wise men called the Magi to travel over 900 miles for the sole purpose of worshipping the Lord Jesus as a baby.

Think about that,

God The Father sent Gentile kingmakers from Babylon of all places—remember the Tower of Babel?!

—to worship the Messianic King of the Jews because His ^{own} people didn't want anything to do with Him

The privilege of traveling 900 miles from Babylon to Bethlehem took 600 years of preparation.

When the Magi arrived at the home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, these kingmakers didn't have to go through the formal process of ordaining Jesus king, like the other kings they have crowned.

no, no, no

Jesus was born a King—the King of kings.

Somehow they knew that.

In the same way, they somehow knew that the star that started their trip— was the supernatural display of God's glory.

We now call that *The Shekinah*.

Can you imagine what Joseph and Mary thought when they heard dozens if not hundreds of people show up and stop right outside their front door?

They hear horses and camels...all these people talking in a foreign language.

What was going through their mind when they heard these Magi knock?

Joseph opens the door and see's all these people dressed like kings.

He looks around, and he sees the Magi's soldiers and servants.

What's he thinking?

Does he think he ~~think~~ he shuts the door and tells Mary to take the Child and hide. ⁷

~~I think~~ I think Joseph's heart is about to explode out of his chest because of fear.

And yet they knock again.

Joseph cracks the door, "Can I help you."

The Magi say, "Yeah. You're probably going to find this a little hard to believe..."

And they tell Joseph the whole story.

He finally lets a few of these men come inside.

Matthew 2:11— *Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped him.*

Now that's a photo I'd like to see when I get to Heaven.

I bet both Joseph and Mary looked like this...:)

And if that wasn't bizarre enough— look at verse 11 again from last week:

Matthew 2:11—Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh

What does a baby need these gifts for?

Babies
The only thing a baby needs is food and a clean diaper.

It's here that I want to back up just a bit. *from last week*

Matthew's gospel focuses on how Jesus is King.

Luke's gospel focuses on how Jesus is human.

So Luke provides an account that is not in Matthew, yet it impacts the story of the Magi.

Let's take a look.

Luke 2:25— There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, looking forward to Israel's consolation (encouragement/comfort), and the Holy Spirit was on him.

Luke 2:26— It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he saw the Lord's Messiah.

Luke 2:27— Guided by the Spirit, he entered the temple. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform for him what was customary under the law,

Luke 2:28— Simeon took him up in his arms, praised God, and said,

Luke 2:29— Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace, as you promised.

Luke 2:30— For my eyes have seen your salvation.

Luke 2:31— You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples—

Luke 2:32— a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel.

↳ STAR / Shekinah → Magi — Cool starts w/ Magi

Luke 2:33— His father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

And that amazement continues in our Scripture passage today in Matthew's Gospel.

INTRODUCTION:

Joe and Mary had no idea that these men would show up to worship Jesus.

What are they thinking? | How are they feeling?

It has to be a combination of fear and joy and confusion.

And yet, they continue to trust God — in that fear, joy, and confusion.

How long do you think the Magi stayed?

Was it just long enough to worship for a moment and drop off the gifts and hightail it out of there?

Scripture doesn't say, but I tend to think that Mary and Joseph had just as many questions for the Magi as the Magi did for them!

I think they stayed for hours talking about all these supernatural things taking place.

And how the Magi explained their history to Mary and Joseph and traced it all the way back to Daniel.

And that's why we spent so much time in the book of Daniel several weeks ago.

Then, can you imagine the Magi's questions for Mary and Joseph?

Mary explains how the Angel Gabriel came and spoke to her and that she would give birth to God's only begotten Son being a virgin.

Mary going on to describe how nobody believed her, including Joseph.

Joseph jumps in to share his dream and how The Lord told him that the Holy Spirit indeed conceived the child—that's what begotten means.

And how they had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem while nine months pregnant.

How they couldn't find a place to stay, so Jesus was born in a cave with farm animals.

And after one of the most amazing and insightful conversations they've ever had, the Magi leave.

And Joseph, shuts the door, shakes his head in disbelief, and says to Mary, "*Wow, what could possibly top that?*"

Let's find out.

Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:13-15 CSB

Matthew 2:13— After they were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up! Take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to search for the child to kill him."

Matthew 2:14— So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and escaped to Egypt.

Matthew 2:15— He stayed there until Herod's death, so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled: Out of Egypt I called my Son.,

PRAY:

Lord, I remember your name in the night, and I obey your instruction.
(Psalm 119:55)

EXEGESIS:

Matthew 2:13— After they were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream,

Did you know that angels are mentioned in the NT 175 times?

Angels are mentioned more in the NT than Agape Love.

I think many times, We miss the importance of angels throughout Scripture.

I also think we'll be stunned at how many times the Lord sent angels to help and guide us along as we stumbled through our life as well.

Some of us may put too much emphasis on angels giving them credit that they don't deserve.

Others of us don't think about angels at all.

Neither one of those options is healthy theologically.

However, the importance of these angels in our Scripture passage today is they are *messengers* from The Father.

These *messengers* take care of Jesus—along with Mary and Joseph.

However, the priority is always Jesus.

Back to verse 13:

Matthew 2:13— *After they were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.*

God continues to speak to Joseph in dreams.

Dreams are God's primary communication method to Joseph.

Does God still speak in dreams today?

Sometimes.

I've heard that God is speaking to Muslims through dreams right now— and that God has been communicating to them in that way over the past several years.

Way cool! Fascinating.

But what is God's primary way of speaking to us today?

Hebrews 1:1— *Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways.*

Hebrews 1:2— *In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe, through him.*

Hebrews 1:3— *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word.*

So Scripture tells us here that the primary method of God communicating to His children is The Bible. *His Son through the Bible*

That's why *Bible* is our middle name—River Bible Church.

If you took the *Experiencing God* class with us last year, we also learned of secondary methods in which God speaks.

Prayer, *[*life circumstances*]* and the Church.

However, if we want to hear from God on a daily basis, we are to read and understand His Word *Correctly*.

Reading the Word of God by the Spirit of God is the primary way to hear God's voice.

Now, back to Joseph...

Matthew 2:13— *"Get up! Take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you."*

Although Joseph was not Jesus' biological father, Joe was *His* Jesus' legal father.

God The Father ordained Joseph to protect Jesus as a child.

So, in other words, Joe's mission included Jesus' *earth* safety and well-being.

Now, dear friends, that's a pretty tall order.

The Angel tells Joseph to flee...where we get our word *fugitive*.

Do you think Joseph woke up from that dream and decided to go back to sleep ~~after that message?~~ ?

Did he yawn and hit snooze?

Joseph was to wake Mary and begin packing bags immediately.

They were not to stop ^{travelling} until they reached Egypt.

It was a 75 mile trip from Bethlehem to Egypt and then another 100 miles to find shelter and safety.

This trip probably took two weeks or so.

Now the question becomes, "Why Egypt?"

If you were Joseph, wouldn't you have a couple of questions for God before you began packing bags?

"Is Egypt really the safest place to go? Are you sure about all this, God?"

Egypt is where we were enslaved!

That's where Moses turned water into blood!

And then there was the whole thing with the frogs, gnats, flies—

And then the death of the firstborn son! Hello!

Not that I doubt you, God, but I kind of am on this one.

Isn't Egypt the last place we should go?"

Well, Alexander the Great set up a safe haven for the Jews in Alexandria.

Alexander named the city after himself—Alexandria.

Alexandria turned into a special place of safety for the Jews to get away from Herod.

Because Herod has no jurisdiction in Egypt.

In fact, by the first century, more than one million Jews were living in Egypt.

Notice here that God did not supernaturally transport the family into Egypt.

Remember Philip evangelizing the Ethiopia Eunuch in Acts 8
They had to walk this very long and dangerous journey just like *hundreds of* other Jewish families.

Just because God ordained Joseph and Mary to raise His Son, didn't mean that they get a pass on pain and the reality of life.

They don't get to ride first class.

Jesus was born in a barn. *of all places.*

And as we'll find out, Jesus never performed a miracle to benefit himself.

Why is that, by the way?

Because we as humans don't have those kinds of supernatural powers. *either*

And as the Son of Man, meaning the Jesus is a human being like you and me—

Jesus completely identifies with you in experiencing the hardship and pain that you go through as well.

The angel continues here...

Matthew 2:13— *For Herod is about to search for the child to kill him."*

Herod hasn't started ^{searching} but he's getting ready to.

So ^{that's} here's the reason why Joseph needs to be instantly obedient to the Lord.

The Child's life is in his hands.

That's a pretty good reason why Joe needs to start packing bags ASAP and get Jesus and Mary out of town under cover of night.

King Herod the Great is not searching for potential threats to the nation of Israel.

No, King Herod the Coward is on a "search and destroy" mission to kill a baby.

Herod's anger prevents him from thinking correctly.

Back to verse 13...let's put all this back together.

Matthew 2:13—*After they were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up! Take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to search for the child to kill him."*

Matthew is starting to hint at something here.

Did you guys ever do this when you were growing up...playing with your friends—kickball, football, baseball— “do over.”

Matthew is hinting at Israel’s “do over” in verse 13.

As the perfect Son of Man, Jesus is now going to succeed where Israel failed.

In other words, Jesus is the new Moses leading a new Exodus.

And we’ll see that more clearly in a moment.

Matthew 2:14— *So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and escaped to Egypt.*

So although Joe may have all those questions going through his mind for God, he still responds in obedience.

Do you think Joe is a tad worried about packing these bags and getting everything ready for this trip?

Yes, but here’s the key—He doesn’t pause and start hem-hawing around making excuses why he can’t go or why this is too hard.

There is no doubt that Joseph is filled with doubt.

But, he does something that he doesn’t necessarily want to do and moves forward, not knowing what to expect on the journey or when he arrives.

He doesn’t even know where he’s going.

He just knows to go to Egypt—Egypt is a big place.

That's like saying I'll meet you in London in Phx

Matthew 2:15— He stayed there until Herod's death, so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled: **Out of Egypt I called my Son.**

two things -

① **So that**—Joe has no idea that he is ~~taking part of~~ fulfilling Scripture.

② Matthew gives us a hint of Israel's "do-over" again.

Matthew is quoting Hosea 11:1.

Have you ever read the OT book of Hosea?

What an amazing book!

Hosea's ^{root}very name comes from Yeshua/~~Hosea~~/Joshua = Jesus.

In the book of Hosea, God demonstrates his love for Israel with a metaphor.

The prophet Hosea himself marries a wild adulterous woman named, Gomer.

Now, if you ask me, he's off to a bad start ~~marrying someone named Gomer.~~

Hosea 11:1—When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

In this text, Israel is called God's Son.

In other words, Hosea is referring to the Exodus.

However, Matthew hints at Jesus being ^{also} a new Moses leading a new Exodus.

Matthew opens our spiritual eyes by telling us that Hosea's prophecy has a dual meaning.

Yes
 Moses led Israel out of Egypt, but they wandered in the desert for forty years—doing Sinai laps.

The Israelites dealt with their sin by the blood of animals—temporary appeasement.

In other words
 Matthew is telling us that Jesus is going to fulfill this passage perfectly, by leading a new kind of Exodus that is not under the law of sin and death...

But under the grace in which Jesus sheds his own blood to propitiate God's wrath.

Yes, Israel was God's son, but a disobedient son.

Jesus, on the other hand, is the beloved Son with whom the Father is "well pleased" (Matt. 3:17).

There is a theological motif that Matthew introduces here in this text.

It's the idea of *Divine Sonship*.

Just as God saved Israel, His Son, from Pharaoh,

God saves Jesus, His only begotten Son, from Herod.

The Israelites spent 40 years in the desert because of their sin...

Jesus spent 40 days in the desert being tempted by sin.

Israel was supposed to bear fruit...

Jesus is the True Vine.

Matthew is showing us how Jesus is the recapitulation of Israel.

Recapitulation: "do-over" *This is important because*

God's summation of the OT *is* in His Son.

For example, Noah's ark was a shadow of Jesus' cross.

Yes, Noah's ark saved people from God's judgment temporarily.

But Jesus saves people from God's judgment eternally.

So Jesus is the true ark (1 Peter 3:18)

Do a Bible study on *Recapitulation* this if you want to be blown away.

Jesus is weaved all through the OT and revealed in the New.

Jesus is:

- The Rock (1 Cor. 10:1-4)
- Living Water (John 4:13)
- The Bread (John 6:35)
- The Tabernacle (Hebrews 8, 9, and 10)
- The Sabbath (Matt. 11:28)
- Seven Jewish Festivals (Col. 2:16-17)
- The Great I AM (John 8:58)
- The Bridegroom. (Rev. 19:6-8)

That is just so much fun!

To see Jesus in the OT.

Notice how the Lord is teaching us—focusing on the Gospels takes us back to the OT which then propels in the Epistles.

The Apostle Paul sums up what Matthew is hinting *AT* out this way.

Ephesians 1:7—In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

Ephesians 1:8— that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Ephesians 1:9— He made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he purposed in Christ *Gospel*

Ephesians 1:10— as a plan for the right time—to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him.

OK
Once again we have the OT, Gospels and learning theology now with the Epistles.

Now let me land this plane and get back to our original text.

Matthew 2:15— He stayed there until Herod's death, so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled: **Out of Egypt I called my Son.**

PREACH:

Do you think that Joseph knew that he would be a part of fulfilling prophecy?

Did Joe sign up to be responsible for God's Son as a *AAAAAAAA* baby and a child?

Is that something that Joseph raised his hand for, *before The foundations of the world?*

Remember the story of how Joe and Mary lost Jesus at Passover one year?

Man, I bet Joseph was freaking out.

they lost Jesus! like Jesus absent!
~~Then he left Jesus there for days on end!~~

How's that conversation go? Joe and Mary return to Jerusalem and start asking around...

“Excuse me, have you happened to see the Son of God walking around? The King of kings, the Savior of the World?—He’s about this tall.” - We kind of lost him.

Joseph gets to Heaven and meets Moses—and Moses says, *“Hey Joe, I heard you lost God’s Son. Wow, and I thought I blew it.”*

Joseph and Mary don’t know what’s going on at this moment. in their lives

They are packing bags, not knowing where they’re physically going.

Are they just a little worried?

Yes, and yet—God has them in the palm of His hand.

What about you? What are you worried about today?

Did you sign up for the trials that you’re going through?

Did you sign up for disobedient children and grandchildren?

Did you ever pray for health problems?

Are you worried about finances, retirement, insurance and all of these earthy burdens?

Would you have ever guessed that this great country you live in is unraveling at a pace that no one can understand?

Today’s Scripture passage is vital to our individual lives because it reveals the sovereignty of God.

KeyPoint #2 God is in control ~~whether we believe it or not~~ ~~that we feel it or not~~

regardless of what we believe or how we feel.

Joseph believed that God was in control.

How do we know?

Because we see his obedience.

When we face a trial or crisis, what we do next proves what we genuinely believe about God.

Joseph had no idea where he was going, how long this trip would take, and how long he would be gone.

And yet, its in those moments of doubt, fear, and worry he chooses to obey.

Those choices build spiritual muscle.

Joseph is not some kind of super saint.

We know next to nothing about this man.

But one thing we do know—is that he was obedient.

Joe didn't sign up to be Jesus' legal guardian—but he was.

That's the hand that he was dealt.

You didn't sign up for the things that are causing you to worry today either—and yet, here you are.

Joe was just like you and me.

He loves God and follows him imperfectly.

Dear friends, please know that you don't have to be perfect to follow Jesus, but you must be obedient.

do need to be increasingly obedient.

As the old saying goes, some of you are coming out of a trial, some of you are in the middle of a trial, and others are getting ready to enter a trial.

Key Point #3

What separates a ~~Christian~~ ^{Disciple} from a ~~Disciple~~ ^{Christian} is choosing not only to love God's promises but also His commands.

The commands of Jesus are not burdensome. (1 John 5:3)

The days of wanting all of Jesus with no work are coming to an end.

Please know I'm not talking about salvation but sanctification.

Key Point #4

It's these trials, ~~no~~ where we can't fake obedience.

It's impossible to pretend ^{that you're being obedient} obedience when God leads you back into Egypt.

Dear friends, don't go alone.

Are you prepared when Jesus speaks to you through His Word?

Are you prepared with the current instability of the world—not knowing what tomorrow is like?

The past two years have been an appetizer, preparing us for the meal.

There are only two things that are eternal: God's Word and God's People.

Joseph is an example of how to

Dear friends, let's cling to both.

PRAY:

Lord's Supper

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