

– Matthew 2.12-22 –
4th Sunday of Advent

Joseph & Family Flee Herod

Mat 2¹² Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

¹³ Now when the Magi 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.” ¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, 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.” ¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more.” ¹⁹ But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

► Why does Herod want the Magi to report back the identity and location of the newborn king of the Jews? (16).

► How far away is Egypt? What town did they likely go to, how far was it, and how long would it take to get there?

► What does Herod do when he realizes the Magi have left without reporting back to him? (16)

► What was effect upon those in and around Bethlehem? (18)

► How long did Joseph and family stay in Egypt? (19-21)

► What does God tell Joseph to do in the dream? (13)

► Why is Joseph afraid to go back to Judea? Where does he go instead, and why? How far was that from Egypt? (22)

► What does Joseph do? (14-15)

► What lessons can we take away from these events?

1) God's Son had to be _____.

Lk 1¹⁷ "[John] will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Mt 11¹⁴ "And if you are willing to accept it, John himself is Elijah who was to come."

Jn 10⁴¹ "While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true."

Mt 11¹¹ "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist"

2) God worked thru _____ like us.

4) Of all the men who ever lived, God pick this man Joseph to _____, _____ for, and _____ his only begotten Son Jesus. Joseph is a good example of biblical _____.

3) _____ is like his OT namesake—only different.

– We see the same pattern with _____ and Elijah.

Mal 4⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶ And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

