

December 5, 2021
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
A Star Is Born // Episode 2: Herod
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Matthew 2:13-18 (NIV)

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." ¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." ¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

Central to the Christmas narrative, but often relegated to a sub point,
is the fact that Jesus and his family were migrants.

Understanding the Escape of Jesus:

Vs. 13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and **ESCAPE** to Egypt.

- **Escape from What?** Like many today, Jesus and his family were forced to flee their homeland due to an authoritarian governments politically motivated infanticide.
- **Escape from Whom?** King Herod the Great
 - **Identity:** King Herod was a Roman who was raised as a Jew and bore the title of King of the Jews.
 - **Builder:** Second Temple, Caesarea Marina, Masada
 - **Brutality:** Herod was responsible for the massacre of the innocents.
- **Escape to Where?** Egypt
 - **Matthew 2:15** cites **Hosea 11:1** as prophetically fulfilled in the return of Joseph, Mary and Jesus from Egypt: "... and out of Egypt I called My son".
 - **Hosea 11:1** points back to the Exodus, where God's 'first-born son' (Ex 4:22), Israel, was delivered from slavery under the oppressive Pharaoh.

Takeaways:

1. God is for the poor.
2. Maybe it's time for us to escape so that we might be freer.

"Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person." -Mother Theresa

Small Group Questions:

1. Have you ever really related to Jesus' true identity as a migrant? Does that change anything for you in your regard for Him?
2. Have you or have you observed others push away people who are different? What were some of the reasons used?
3. How can the compassion of one help the future of many?
4. Where do you feel the Lord is urging you to stretch yourself and welcome freedom?