



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE
"Surprise! It's Time for a Change"
Matthew 2:13-23

SERMON NOTES

Record your insights & observations from this week's sermon.

GOOD BOOK ABOUT THE BIRTH OF JESUS

The First Days of Jesus by Andreas J. Kostenberger and Alexander E. Stewart

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Read *Matthew 2:13-15*. After the Magi came to visit, the rejoicing was short lived for Mary and Joseph, and an angel tells them they would have to move to a foreign town immediately. Have you ever had to make a dramatic move or change in your life? What was that like?
- 2) The gifts from the Wise Men (see *Matthew 2:11*) helped provide Mary & Joseph's needs to live in Egypt for a while. How has God provided for your needs this year and in your past?
- 3) Read *Matthew 2:16-18*. Herod went to extreme measures to keep his throne. How do you respond when others who are gifted in your areas do well? Do you encourage them or do you get jealous and envious? Discuss.
- 4) Read *Matthew 2:16-18* again and *Jeremiah 31:15-18*. The prophecy of Jeremiah are for those who are being carried into exile. In Matthew's account, the tears are for those who remained behind in Bethlehem and were slaughtered. How was there hope for the exiles in Babylon (see *Jeremiah 31:16-18*) and how did Joseph and Mary's escape from Bethlehem provide the people hope?
- 5) Read *Matthew 2:19-23*. Joseph received another dream to make a move once again. This time, he was uncertain where exactly to go in the land of Israel because his conscious told him to be careful due to fear of Archelaus. What do you do when you don't know what to do?
- 6) Throughout this text (*Matthew 2:13-23*), God gave Joseph direction on what to do and where to go. How has God directed your life and given you direction?
- 7) Although the prophecy of *Matthew 2:23* is not mentioned in the Old Testament, it was a common prophecy of the prophets that emphasized Jesus would not be honored by His people but despised by them. Read *Isaiah 53:3; Mark 6:1-6*. How was Jesus treated in His hometown?

FOR YOUR FAMILY

- 1) Memorize *Proverbs 16:9*: "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."
- 2) Read *Matthew 2:13-23*. Discuss with your family why Joseph and Mary had to move each time.
- 3) Discuss with your family how God provided for Joseph and Mary as they moved and discuss how God has provided for your family this year.