

Moving Forward

Journey Through The Dark

Matthew 2:13-15

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' **Matthew 2:13-15**

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

With hopeful expectation we peer into this new year to what lies ahead for us as a community and as individuals. Though our culture isn't conducive for patient reflection, may we be encouraged to prayerfully think about the year behind us and allow for that reflection to be our guide for 2021.

We're not as familiar with what happens in scripture after the birth of Jesus, as we typically move on with what's taking place in our own lives and our world. Read the above passage from Matthew. ***Why will things not return to "normal" for Mary, Joseph, and Jesus? How is something new emerging for them instead? How can this passage help you think about joining God in his new plans rather than returning to "normal" or making your own plans?***

Throughout the disruptions of 2020, we can trust that God has been at work redeeming, restoring, and transforming. ***Consider how you have seen God at work within the different aspects of your life: your relationships, family, work or calling, your neighborhood or community. How does it encourage you to know that, like Mary and Joseph, we too will not be going "back to Nazareth" but set upon a new path?***

As you consider how God is making all things new in your life, you're invited to reflect on these two questions found with the Advent Devotional in the section [JOURNEY WITH THE LIGHT](#):

1) Is there something fragile or new, a new desire or sense of call that has stirred in your soul this year? We likely won't be visited in a dream as Joseph was, but how might you be discerning God's call? Are you able to put words to this sense of call?

2) How can you nourish this new thing as well as protect it? Along their new path, Mary and Joseph had to nourish Jesus as well as protect him. What do you need to do?

Heavenly Father, we enter this new year with hopeful expectation and excitement that You are making all things new. With joy we look forward to understanding your call for each of our lives and joining You in your plans for us and our world in 2021. Help us to find patience and quiet reflection this week as we seek your voice. Amen.