

THE ESCAPE TO EGYPT

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-18

December 28, 2020

Message:

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.

Matthew 2:13-14 (NRSV)

Egypt – a different culture, a different language, a different “god”. How would they survive? The young couple realized that their child was a special gift from God, the Savior, Emmanuel, and they had no choice but to flee their homeland and seek safety.

For centuries, this difficult decision has been made by many families who have been oppressed in their homeland due to race, culture, religion, and political rule. Most of us are the descendants of those who sought out life in America, hoping that it would be the answer to their needs. One of my best friends in my teen years was the daughter of Polish immigrants who fled their homeland just months before the Nazi invasion. I witnessed this family’s personal struggle with the language, the culture of the West Virginia coal camp, and their religious beliefs.

Today, thousands of refugees are flowing across borders around the world in search of “freedom”. In search of a brighter future, they are risking their own lives. Mary and Joseph took this same risk, aware that King Herod was seeking to kill their child. God was with them in their journey, just as He is with us every moment of the day. As the ancient prophet tells us:

“And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.”

Isaiah 58:11 (KJV)

Prayer: May The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen.

(Numbers 6:24-26, NIV)

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