“The King and His Kingdom: Out of Egypt”

Matthew 2:13-23

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 6/5/22)

 Matthew’s gospel intentionally echoes the Book of Genesis. God’s new beginning requires a new ending, coming out of bondage to Satan and to self. Why did Mary and Joseph flee to Egypt? Well, of course, an angel told them to! And it was also so that Scripture would be fulfilled: “Out of Egypt I have called My Son.” God leads us by His Word and by the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Joseph is wise: he responds with swift, thorough obedience to God’s message. Faith in God is expressed in obedience to His leading. How did this poor family afford the trip? Remember the gifts of the wise men? Coincidence? I think not! God always supplies the life into which He leads His people.

 Think back to the Old Testament for a minute. How did the Hebrew people end up in Egypt? Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers. Taken to Egypt, he suffered YEARS of abuse, and then finally became Pharaoh’s right-hand man during God’s appointed time of famine. (Q1) The Hebrews came to escape the famine, and then they were enslaved for 400 years. A place of refuge became a place of slavery. Moses, miraculously spared from death as an infant, was sent to lead his people out of bondage. This should remind you of another Child miraculously spared as an infant (Matt. 2:16). Now take a look at Matt. 2: 5, 15, 17, and 19. These verses are all about the fulfillment of God’s promise. The sovereign hand of God manages “circumstances” to bring about His prophesied will. God is in the process of recreating His world and His people through the work of His King, Jesus.

 Has this new exodus happened in your life? Have you left your bondage to sin and self-centeredness and journeyed into a life of PEACE and allegiance to Jesus, your King? Sin is a curse, as well as a cruel taskmaster. We are born predisposed to distort the image of God. Unless we can escape this bondage, we are headed to Hell. Jesus has come to liberate us and lead us in a new exodus into His new Kingdom. His mercy is more, much more than your sin. All who surrender to Christ as King enjoy liberation from their sin. Some of us have grown comfortable in “Egypt.” (Q2) Do you hear the Spirit saying, “Come on, let’s go”? The King’s people are those who leave “Egypt” and give their allegiance to Him. Their repentance leads to a life of swift and thorough obedience.

 There is no greater privilege than to be an adopted son of God, and to say, “Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me!” Faith’s presence is expressed by swift and thorough obedience to the King. The Kingdom way is a life of worship and service to the King. And remember, if God leads you through tough stuff, He will always give you what you need to get through it!

**QUESTIONS**:

1. God’s appointed time of famine? Yes! When have you seen God use something bad to bring about His best?
2. What does Pastor Steve mean by “Egypt”?
3. Read Phil. 2:5-8. Swift and thorough obedience was Jesus’ very nature. Have you noticed that Pastor Steve repeated that phrase at least 3 times!?!? That phrase could also be described as “following Christ” or “abiding in Christ”. If we decide to NOT obey and to “go our own way”, why does that always lead to a lack of peace?
4. In what way(s) has Christ set you free from bondage? Be specific. For what purpose has he set you free?
5. The Bible is one book with one great theme. In your own words, what is that theme?
6. The waiting church is not a sitting church; it is a sent church, sent to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. What will you do to proclaim the gospel this week?

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (Wesley)

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing

My great Redeemer’s praise,

The glories of my God and king,

The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God,

Assist me to proclaim,

To spread through all the earth abroad,

The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,

That bids our sorrows cease—

’Tis music in the sinner’s ears,

’Tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin,

He sets the pris’ner free;

His blood can make the foulest clean,

His blood availed for me.