

No Fear for a New Year Matthew 2:13-23

We see Jesus living as a refugee.

What looks like catastrophe is actually effectual sovereign grace saving lost sinners like us.

“Somewhere, somehow, somebody
Must have kicked you around some
Tell me why you wanna lay there
And revel in your abandon

Honey, it don't make no difference to me,
Everybody's had to fight to be free
You see, you don't have to live like a refugee
(Don't have to live like a refugee) ...”

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers

What's your narrative?

I. Egypt: Overcoming The Narrative of Hopelessness and Helplessness to Sin. Matthew 2:13-15

Jesus goes into the Egypt of our sin to lead us out of our slavery forever.

“Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Rise, 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.’ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord has spoken by the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt, I called my son.’”
Matthew 2:13-15

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yokes on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them.”

Hosea 11:1-4

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish

them but to fulfill them.... For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:17,20

“This text says something weighty about the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one who came to complete all that Israel was designed to perform. All the adulteries and idolatries and rebellion and waywardness that characterized Israel would be recast in the true Israel - Jesus Christ. God sent his Son to do himself what his people could not do for themselves. This is the meaning of fulfillment of Hosea 11 and the true meaning of Immanuel, God with us.”

Kevin De Young

Jesus is our Hosea bringing us out of our perpetual prostituting of ourselves to sin.

“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.”

Genesis 50:21

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Genesis 50:21

II. Exile: Overcoming the Narrative of Insurmountable Sorrow.

Matthew 2:16-18

Jesus Experienced the Agony of Exile In Order to Bring Us the Hope of Deep and Lasting Comfort.

“Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted because they were no more.’ Matthew 2:16-18

“Thus says the LORD:

‘A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;

she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.’

“Thus says the LORD:

‘Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work,
declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.
There is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children
shall come back to their own country.”

Jeremiah 31:15-17

“Exile was the trauma of the Old Testament—and we dare not underestimate its impact.” Dr.
Peter Enns

“ ‘And Judah and all its cities shall dwell there together, and the farmers and those who wander
with the flocks. For I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul, I will replenish.’
And I awoke and I looked, and my sleep was pleasant to me.”

Jeremiah 31:24-26

III. Nazareth: Overcoming the Narrative of Deep Shame. Matthew 2:19-23

Jesus Became an Outcast in Order to Remove Our Shame.

“Nathaniel said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’”
John 1:46

“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief and as one
from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”
Isaiah 53:6

“...was numbered with the transgressors, yet he bore the sin of many and makes intercession
for the transgressors.”
Isaiah 53:12

“But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. All who see
me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; ‘He trusts in the Lord; let him
deliver him; let him rescue him for he delights in him.’” Psalm 22:6,7

“And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns,
they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked
him, saying ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on
the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own

clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.”

Matthew 27:28-31

Jesus was despised by men so that we might be accepted by God.

What narrative will define you in 2024?