



Shelby Christian Church

CHRISTMAS - HOLY MOMENTS: THE EARLY YEARS OF JESUS' LIFE

MATTHEW 2:13-23 * 12/28/2025

MAIN POINT

The story of Jesus is a threat to those who are primarily committed to their own glory.

What are some things that you tend to be paranoid about?

Have you ever acted on a paranoia, such as getting up in the night to check the locks or going to the doctor out of fear you caught someone's illness?

What is paranoia usually a sign of? Watch as we read these verses of the paranoia of King Herod.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 2:13-15.

What are some ways that God provides guidance for Christians today, like he did through the angel?

What did it cost Joseph to get Jesus out of harm's way?

This is not the first time the angel spoke to Joseph and he obeyed. From what we know about Joseph, why do you think God chose him to be Jesus' earthly father?

What is radical obedience? Why should radical obedience to Jesus be the normal response for a Christian?

Read Matthew 2:15 again. What was the significance of Jesus' time in Egypt?

Read Hosea 11:1. How is this verse fulfilled in Jesus? What does this teach us about God's work to save His people?

Why is Jesus the ultimate example of God's compassion?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 2:1-12 AND 2:16-18.

Based on Herod's response to the news of the coming Messiah, what kind of person do you think he was?

What does Herod's response say about his view of the Messiah?

How did Jesus meet or contradict those expectations?

What are the notable differences between the characters of these two kings, Herod and Jesus?

HAVE A FINAL VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 2:19-23.

How would you describe Jesus' mission, in your own words?

APPLICATION

Even as a baby, Jesus was divisive. How do you see the divisiveness of Jesus' authority play out in our world and relationships today?

Before you became a Christian, did you wrestle with the authority of Jesus? If so, what are some of the fears or questions you had?

What impact has our study of the Christmas story had on your preparation for Christmas?

How can you use this part of Jesus' birth story to share the gospel with someone?

PRAYER