

“A NOT-SO SILENT NIGHT”

The Gospel of Matthew 2:13-23

Advent 2015: Part 3 / Pastor Matt Jones, Del Rey Church

I. Introduction

- A. The book of Matthew and the history of Jesus**
- B. The baby Jesus reaches the nations (Matt.1:18-23)**
- C. The bleak journey of the magi out of Jerusalem**

II. The Father’s Love for the Christ Child (Matt. 2:13-23)

A. The heavens reveal the loving will of God (2:13-15)

- 1. The Father is protector of His Son (v.13)
- 2. The Father is provident over history (vv.14-15)

B. The earth responds in hostility to God’s will (2:16-19)

- 1. The hard hearted are prophesied (vv.16-17)
- 2. The hard hearted are perishable (v.19)

C. The will of heaven reigns over the earth (2:20-23)

- 1. The punishment of the wicked will come (v.20)
- 2. The promised-land will meet the Messiah (v.21-23)

III. Conclusion – The Unstoppable Jesus of Christmas

A. The Jesus of history is unstoppable, for He is the protected Savior of the world.

B. The servants of God on mission with Christ are likewise unstoppable, for He our refuge and strength whose promise is true.

C. The judgment of God is unstoppable, rightly falling upon the wicked and offering the justice we all long for in Jesus Christ.

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. What was your hometown like and how has it shaped you? Reflect upon the hometown and upbringing of Jesus. Discuss the significance of Jesus’ growing up in Nazareth of Galilee, an out-of-the-way town and province, rather than a high-status and influential city such as Jerusalem. How does this humble life of the incarnate eternal Son transform our lives?
2. The historic slaughter of the innocent children, at the hands of Herod, was heinous and evil. The extent Herod went to protect his own desire for health, wealth and prosperity are glaringly disturbing. The truth is, humanity still does this today. We destroy innocent life under the masquerade of choice for individual dreams of prosperity and escape of virtue. More personally, every human has a tendency of fighting the will of God in order to pursue other ambitions. Discuss both how our culture and how you personally have sought things other than God’s renown and perfect will. How can you live for His glory?
3. While the powers of the world were hostile toward the coming of the Son, the Father was mighty to save and faithful to protect the Only Begotten One. The Son came to die, but it was not to happen at the hands of Herod, God ordained for it to end of Calvary. The humanity of the Son was indestructible and God’s will unstoppable. The same holds true for us—our lives cannot be taken before God’s time – He is in control! Our lives are in the hands of the Father, whose promise is true and who consistently comes through. How does the reality of the unstoppable will of God change your life? How does the reality that God is your refuge and strength impact your life and mission in carrying the gospel?