THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

A SERIES ON MATTHEW 1-7

Jesus, the New Israel

Matthew 2:13–23

Sermon Notes:

Prayer Requests:

1. What insight, principle, or observation from the message did you find most helpful, most challenging, or most troubling? Please explain.

2. What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "Bible prophecy"? Does Sunday's passage confirm or challenge some of your ideas about prophecy in the Bible? Explain.

3. Consider Joseph's dreams in Matthew 1:20-21, 2:13, 2:20 and 2:22.

    a. Have you, or someone you know, ever wanted or asked God to directly tell you what to do in a supernatural way, like He did for Joseph?

    b. What kind of situation were you (or they) in? When we seek this kind of guidance from God, what kind of outcome are we generally looking for?

    c. Consider the practical results of these dreams in Joseph's life. (You can also consider Paul's similar experience in Acts 16:9-24.) What can we learn from this?

4. Read Jeremiah 31 (the whole chapter).

    a. What parts of this passage had (apparently) come to pass before the time of Jesus' birth?

    b. What parts of this passage were God's people still waiting for?

    c. When Matthew quotes verse 15 (Matthew 2:18), what is he signalling to his readers? What are the expectations towards Jesus that he is helping us build?

5. If the Bible is really all about Jesus, as our passage today confirms, how should this impact the way we read it?

    a. For example, when New Testament authors quote the Old Testament, what would be a good approach to try to understand their point?

    b. Are there any other practical approaches to Bible reading that would be good practices, based on our study this week?

6. Consider the theme of "exile" in your own life or the lives of those you know and love.

    a. Read 1 Peter 2:25 & 3:18 with this in mind. Write down any notes or observations.

    b. What does it practically look like for us to live at "home" with God, today?

    c. Is there anything you need to do, change, think, feel, say, or pray this week in response to any of these truths?