

When Life Brings Unexpected Detours

December 27, 2009

Matthew 2:13-23

I. What Unexpected Detours Do for Us:

^{13a}When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt."

1. They prepare us for God's future plans.

^{13b}"Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

2. They teach us to wait for God's timing.

¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵where he stayed until the death of Herod.

3. They train us to trust in God's protection.

¹⁹After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

4. They sensitize us to hear God's voice.

^{15b}And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

5. They involve us in God's larger purposes.

II. What Unexpected Detours Show Us about God:

^{13a}When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.

1. God intervenes.

^{13b}"Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and *escape* to Egypt."

2. God protects.

¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left *for Egypt*, ^{15a}where he stayed until the death of Herod.

3. God guides.

^{15b}And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

4. God fulfills.