

# Week 10

**Sunday, Dec 26**

**Matthew 2:1-6**

**For Reflection:** In verse 3 Herod is frightened, troubled, and disturbed by the birth of Jesus. What do you most fear? What has the power to frighten you?<sup>1</sup>

**Lagniappe:** Obviously... Micah 5:1-5<sup>2</sup>

**Monday, Dec 27**

**Matthew 2:7-12**

**For Reflection:** What do you treasure? How has God gifted you to serve him? Are you sharing that gift actively?

**Lagniappe:** Isaiah 60:1-7 - note particularly verses 3 & 7

**Tuesday, Dec 28**

**Matthew 2:12-15**

**For Reflection:** When have you experienced Divine Intervention and how?

How have you been protected/rescued by God?

**Lagniappe:** Hosea 11:1<sup>3</sup>

**Wednesday, Dec 29** **Matthew 2:17-23<sup>4</sup>**

**For Reflection:** In the last few days we have read about the inspiring trust of Mary and Joseph. And then today we read of Herod's infanticide. What kind of world did Jesus come to save? Has it changed much?

**Lagniappe:** Jeremiah 31:15<sup>5</sup>

**Thursday, Dec 30**

**Luke 2:41-52**

---

<sup>1</sup> These are undeniably negative questions to reflect upon the day after Christmas, but it is where the text takes us. And as Herod will show us in just a few verses we do really stupid things when we are afraid, when we are shocked (surprised by fear) we can do awful things. So, it's good to know where your vulnerabilities are. This text shows us the vulnerability the Son of God experiences in the incarnation. He's just an infant, but also apparently a matter of national security, and existential threat to the state. It's amazing we wonder if he loves us.

<sup>2</sup> Micah 5 was our main reading on Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. It is interesting that prophesying at the same time as Isaiah they both point to a coming savior – a good shepherd/suffering servant. Something about an enemy at that gates encourages hope and faith.

<sup>3</sup> Hosea another contemporary if Isaiah and Micah. HMMMM. This doesn't seem like a prophecy, but Matthew thinks so, I wonder why? Reading the gospels there is so much messianic expectation (the enemy isn't at the gates as with Isaiah Micah and Hosea, but Rome is in the gates), All that expectation makes me wonder if there was a public list of Biblical Messianic promises extant at the time and Hosea 11:1 was included. On the other hand, Jesus is the Son of God, and he is called out of Egypt. Biblical texts can have multiple messages.

<sup>4</sup> Sorry about this portion of the Christmas story. But there is a reason Jesus came and is coming again. This is what can happen when power is mixed with fear. Sad, sad, sad story.

<sup>5</sup> This references Rachels death in child birth recorded in Gen 35:16-20 and who was buried near Bethlehem. HMMM. Also Jeremiah 31 is oft quoted for a very different sort of passage you might compare the lament (15-26) with the promises that follow particularly 31-34

**For Reflection:** If you were Mary what would you treasure from this experience?

**Lagniappe:** Exodus 23:15<sup>6</sup>

**Friday, Dec 31**

**John 1:6-37**

**For Reflection:** What does John notice about Jesus. What do you notice about Jesus? Pray for natural opportunities to bear witness to Christ today.

**Lagniappe:** Isaiah 53:7

**Saturday, Jan 1**

**Galatians 4:4-7**

**For Reflection:** Why did God send his son for you and for all?

**Lagniappe:** Isaiah 43:18-19<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> I wonder if the Passover had special meaning to Mary and Joseph as they too spent time in Egypt – just reread the main reading for the 29<sup>th</sup> if you are confused.

<sup>7</sup> Wow, do you notice how this connects with the main text and to New Year's Day!?!?!?!?