

## “Jesus Is...The Ender of Our Exile”

New Day Church

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Matthew 2:16-18

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a **flexible guide** that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

### Message Summary

Jesus said to His disciples on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, “*Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men!*” These men dropped their nets and followed Him. But who were they following? Prior to this invitation, Matthew gives us a picture of the Man they decided to follow. As a matter of fact, he gives us no less than 20 pictures of Jesus. David Platt, who identified these 20 pictures, said, “This Jesus is worthy of more than nominal adherence and church association...it’s either turn and run or bow and worship.”

This Jesus is the Promised Offspring that will crush Satan’s head and bless the whole world. He is the Promised King Whose reign has begun and He demands our allegiance. He is the Promised Messiah Who rules with authority as King; representing God to us as Prophet and us to God as Priest. He is the Promised Savior Who will save you from the bondage and consequences of sin. He is the Center of History and no other person, population, or power can change the fact that Jesus is the One toward Whom all of history before and after Him points. He is the God-Man; man’s perfect God and God’s perfect Man. This Jesus is Sovereign over the wise and Shepherd over the weak. Jesus is also the Inaugurator of the New Exodus. Just as the blood of the lamb over the doorposts of the Jews in Egypt inaugurated the Exodus from Egypt, God in His great mercy inaugurated a New Exodus from sin through the blood of His Son. This week we learned Jesus is the Ender of our Exile.

Herod, the insecure and paranoid king of the Jews, after learning he was tricked by the wise men, in a fit of rage ordered all male children 2 years and below to be killed. He did this so the would-be baby King would not overthrow his kingdom. As a result, mothers all over Bethlehem and the surrounding region wept for their baby boys. Matthew compared this tragedy to the weeping that took place in Jerusalem when the people were carried off into the Babylonian exile about 600 years prior.

This passage includes Matthew’s 4<sup>th</sup> quote from the Old Testament, identifying to his readers that this story of Jesus and the plan for His life was based in the Old Testament story of redemption. But what exactly did Matthew want the reader to see? The answer is found in understanding the source of this quote and its context from Jeremiah 31.

The book of Jeremiah was written during the Babylonian exile. Jeremiah lived through this act of God’s judgment on His people. Jeremiah wrote of how God was going to judge His people who had constantly turned their hearts away from Him. However, in Jeremiah 31 we see God making a promise. Judgment would end and God’s people would be restored. They would return from the exile. Yet they would be a new people who would live under a New Covenant. God in His grace and mercy would restore His people who would then live for His glory. He would be their God and they would be His people.

We learned from this message that people are separated from God because of sin and living in an exile separated from God and His love. Yet Jesus has come to earth to live, die, and be raised to new life so we can be delivered from exile. Further, those who know Jesus as Lord and Savior are also living in an exile of sorts. We are living in a foreign land plagued by sin, sorrow, and suffering. This world is not our home. One day Jesus will deliver us from these bodies of flesh and we will rule and reign with Him in our eternal home.

As you prepare to gather with your Missional Community this week examine how you daily live in repentance over sin. Do you preach the Gospel to yourself daily as was shared in the sermon? Do you rest in God’s promise of deliverance or is there another “god” you are bowing to in daily life? Remember that Jesus alone ends your exile from sin. Jesus alone brings hope and assurance of eternal life. Jesus alone is the only One worthy of worship.

### Message Outline

Truths from the tragedy of exile:

1. The Pain is Real.
2. Hope is Near.
3. Repentance is Necessary.
4. Deliverance is Sure.

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### **Group Discussion**

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Matthew 2:16-18:

1. What does this passage say about God’s character?
2. What is God doing here? How does this passage fit in the overall narrative of the Bible?
3. What is God saying about me?
4. Where am I not living by faith? How do I return to faith?
5. How should I practice this in everyday life?

### **Weekly Prayer Focus**

- **Church:**

- Pray that God would give us new believers and covenant members.
- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to establish their goals and objects and begin to live them out.
- Pray for the 2016 Financial Ministry Plan as we seek to be a church of disciples who make disciples of all the nations.

- **Local:**

- Pray for the Friday Night Beach Bonfire Outreach and the developing friendships. Pray these will lead toward Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the Community Thanksgiving Meal held on November 21, 2015 at 11a.m. at NWFSC – South Walton Center.
- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.

- **Global:**

- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.