

“Jesus Is...The Lover of His Fiercest Enemies”

New Day Church

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Matthew 2:19-23

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. Jesus is the Ender of our Exile. He is our only hope for ending our exile in sin. While hope is near, repentance is necessary, and deliverance is sure.

This week we learned that Jesus is the Lover of His Fiercest Enemies. By the time we get to the end of Matthew 2, we discover that everyone is out to kill Jesus. Herod has sought him until his own death. All of Jerusalem had been stirred by his birth, and now His father was on the run with Him again to avoid Herod’s son, Archelaus. But we discover this is what the prophets warned. Even though Jesus would be despised and rejected, He would come to His enemies anyway. He would love those who loved the world, themselves, and evil. He would ultimately die in their place and He would receive them into His family.

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week examine your love for those who are unlovable. How were you unlovable before knowing Jesus? How does your relationship with Him help you to love others?

Message Outline

Jesus’ enemies sought to kill Him because:

1. He came from the wrong place.
2. He didn’t conform to their expectations.
3. He was despised and rejected.

Who are Jesus’ enemies?

1. Lovers of the world.
2. Lovers of self.
3. Lovers of evil.

But...Jesus loves His enemies:

1. Jesus pursues His enemies.
 - The wrong people.
 - The unimpressive.
 - The despised & rejected.
2. Jesus suffered & died for His enemies.
3. Jesus receives His enemies.

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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 2:19-23:

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.