

Whence Does He Come?

Matthew 2:13-23

Discussion around most recent sermon:

- Date: 12/23/18
- Series: Advent: Love
- Title: Whence Does He Come?
- Text: Matthew 2:13-23
- Preacher: Shawn Reese

2. Discussion Questions

a. Preparation Questions:

1. What resonated with you most about the sermon?
2. James shared his life verse around the themes of crying to the Lord, hearing Him and Him arriving. How has God arrived in your life?
3. What questions did you come away with from the sermon?

b. Sermon Questions (Pick 2-3)

1. This week the Advent theme of love. How did you respond to Shawn's description of Agape love?
 - a. **At what level** do you consider Christ's birth as extravagant love?
 - b. How did you respond to Shawn's observations of Joseph, the Child and Herod?
 - Joseph showing agape love, the helpless Christ child and the curse that infiltrated Herod?
2. Shawn's made the comment this text being part of Christmas readings until the 19th century and then removed. How do you react to this decision in our church history?
 - a. Matthew links the "where does this Child come from" to the OT and rooted in history.
 - How does this fulfillment in history resonate with you? Is it important to you in your faith? Why or why not?
 - Have you lived in "dark" and "fearful" times? How does this text minister to you?

3. Matthew takes us from Egypt to Bethlehem to Nazareth and highlights Hosea's prophesy of God's extravagant love. Shawn points out parallels with Pharaoh being the monster in Moses time, Rachel being the mother of Israel and Nazareth being an insignificant town.
 - a. Why do you think it is important for Matthew to retell the love story between God and Israel?
 - b. How does God identifying with us, being for us and with us affect you?

4. Shawn ends the sermon with the questions What Story are you going to live in?
 - a. How did you relate to his comments?
 - b. What is the can be in your life?
 - How do you see Jesus succeeding in your life to fulfill where Israel failed?

c. For Further Reflection:

1. What would you have shared during the Body Life time?
2. Do you primary relate to the truth of our savior arrival here on earth in your head or heart? Does it move you or is it a a nice, appreciative thought?
 - a. How would you like it to be?