**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr, February 5, 2023**

**Whose Plans Are You Following?**

Matthew 2:13-23

**Key Truth:** The gospel of Jesus Christ is a threat to those who are primarily committed to their own glory.

**The Story of An Awful King And A Loving Father:**

1. Herod carried out senseless acts of violence on the

 innocent because of his paranoia.

 A. Herod sees Jesus’ birth as something to be feared.

2. Joseph must once again trust the guiding hand of God.

 A. God sovereignly makes provision for the escape to

 Egypt. **Matthew 2:11**

3. Nothing about the circumstances surrounding the birth

 of Jesus catches God by surprise.

**What Can We Learn:**

1. Even in the midst of senseless and gut-wrenching pain,

 God is still in control.

2. Whenever God gives a vision, He also provides

 provision!

3. When God speaks clearly, our response is to obey

 immediately.

4. God’s plan of salvation is unstoppable.

5. The Bible can be trusted.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank God for the grace, salvation, and acceptance that comes with knowing Jesus Christ. Pray for the boldness to speak truth to those in your life who view Jesus and His authority as something to be feared or rejected.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

When was a time you made plans and then God changed them for you? How did you respond?

In Matthew 2:13-15, God revealed His will to Joseph in a dream, and Joseph wasted no time in obeying God’s instructions. What is your reaction when God reveals His will to you?

What is radical obedience? Why should radical obedience to Jesus be the normal response for a Christian?

Read Proverbs 3:5-6: In what ways are you currently leaning on your own understanding in living your life?

In what area of your life do you have the greatest difficulty acknowledging God?

Read Matthew 2:13-15: What are some ways that God provides guidance for Christians today, like he did through the angel?

What did it cost Joseph to get Jesus out of harm’s way?

Do you think it was difficult for Joseph to leave the comforts of his home and all that he knew to obey God?

This is not the first time the angel spoke to Joseph and he obeyed. From what we know about Joseph, why do you think God chose him to be Jesus’ earthly father?

What’s an area of your life you need to obey God more? How can we pray for you?