

THE ROAD AHEAD

The Fight and the Flight

Matthew 2:1-12; 13:23 | Clay Brown preaching



Introduction: Just as we're coming off the sugar high of Christmas morn, Matthew 2 makes sure we are recalibrated back into the world as we usually recognize it. Despotism. Mysterious foreign visitors. Manipulation of information by the powers that be. Genocidal violence. A family fleeing persecution and death. In fact, Matthew 2 sounds like it's right out of today's headlines. It's not your usual Christmas story. Yet it reveals the depths of sin in the world Jesus comes to bring His salvation message and work.

1. In verses 1-2, we meet the Wise Men from the east. Much mythology has arisen regarding our mysterious visitors. What do we know directly from the passage itself? What has been added either by assumptions drawn from the text (but not necessarily good ones) or by stories and retellings of stories through the centuries? What is Biblically significant about these visitors, and why is their presence important here?
2. In verses 3 and following, Herod the Great is a man on a mission. Unfortunately his mission is in the worst tradition of personal sociopathy and political intrigue. Why is he concerned about the Wise Men's appearance? What does he fear most? How does he attempt to play the system to get the outcome he desires?
3. Describe the Wise Men's encounter with Jesus in verses 9-12. Who is missing from the meeting? What gifts are given? What might these gifts represent? What use might these gifts possess for the future? How do the Wise Men counter Herod's moves?
4. Why do the Holy Family go to Egypt in verses 13-15? Describe the process Joseph, Mary, and Jesus go through as God reveals to them what they must do. What similarities do they have with other refugees in past centuries and in ours?
5. Herod is a pragmatist above all else. If a threat exists to his rule, he must neutralize it. To what horrific extreme does he go in verses 16-18? What Biblical prophecy does Herod's depravity fulfill? What examples of like cruelty and moral blindness do we see in today's world?
6. After Herod dies, the way is clear for the Holy Family's return in verses 19-23. Why does the family wind up in the no-name village of Nazareth, in the no-name province of Galilee? What does being raised in this location say about the person and work of Jesus?
7. What pattern of divine guidance do we observe consistently from beginning to end of this passage? Are there places in the world today where this sort of guidance is happening regularly, according to reports? What cultural limitations do we often place on how we may receive God's guidance today? How do you receive God's guidance, day in and day out?





Sunday, December 29, 2019

THE ROAD AHEAD

The Fight and the Flight

Matthew 2:1-12; 13:23

Clay Brown preaching



8:30 AM BLENDED & 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

PRaise & WORSHIP • CONFESSION • MESSAGE • OFFERING

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez, worship leader
Asher Pudlo, drums • Daniel Amaya, bass • George Heathco, guitar

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL MUSIC

PRELUDE

Carol Rhapsody

Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

***HYMN OF PRAISE #53**

What Child Is This (Vs. 1-3)

GREENSLEEVES

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #579** *The Gloria Patri*

CAROL SING

See Screens for Hymns

OFFERTORY

Gesù Bambino

Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #31** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (Vs. 3)

MENDELSSOHN

POSTLUDE

God Rest You Merry

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Musicians in these services: Nathan Lerner, soloist
Dr. Jeffrey Hoover, guest organist • Dr. Charles Hausmann, conductor

* Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

**B90 IS AN ENGAGING
90-DAY BIBLE READING
EXPERIENCE**

**Sundays,
Jan. 12-April 19
11:15 AM**

**B90
READ THE BIBLE**

B90.MDPC.ORG

**Who
will you
bring?**

Invite a friend from any faith or non-faith to try Alpha together. It's a no-pressure way to explore Jesus, with no question, belief, or idea off-limits. It's a place to talk about difficult seasons like having doubts or fears or being dissatisfied with life (feels we all sometimes feel). Or it's a place to simply meet new people or share what you believe. Alpha is for Christians, too, and can help rekindle faith that has cooled.

Tuesdays, Jan. 21 to Mar. 10 | 6:30-8:15 PM at MDPC

Free dinner, free childcare

Learn more: alpha.mdpc.org

Married Life Prep Classes

Couples are invited to join us for this four-week course, taught by Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement. Program is open to all engaged and newly married couples, and combines Biblical teaching with the best current marriage research.

Sundays, January 5, 12, 19, 26

10:00 AM-12:00 PM • Room 171/172

mlp.mdpc.org

Theology Matters: The Trinity

In this second course, we'll dive deeper into what Christianity professes about the Trinity, how we may understand it more clearly, and why this crucial doctrine makes a difference in daily Christian living. Few topics are more fruitful—and more challenging—than unpacking what Christian theology says about the Three-in-One God. Classes will be taught by Dr. Clay Brown, Equipping Pastor.

Wednesdays, January 8, 15, 22, & 29

6:30-8:00 PM • Ministry Center Room 122

theology.mdpc.org

Racial Reconciliation Workshop

MDPC will be hosting this workshop in partnership with area churches. It was developed to facilitate helpful conversations around the topics of race and diversity in a gospel-centered way. The conference will be led by Pastor Albert Tate from Monrovia, CA. All are welcome, but please make every effort to attend both days.

Friday & Saturday, January 10-11

Cost is \$30; scholarships are available

Contact Rachel Poysky: rpoysky@mdpc.org

Parents Shopping Day

Enjoy an evening out while your kids are lovingly cared for by MDPC Children's Ministry.

Saturday, January 11 • 4:00-8:00 PM

\$25/child; \$15 for sibling; \$50 maximum

Sign up at pno.mdpc.org

Sunday's All Church Lunch

Entrée: lemon baked codfish or yankee pot roast; served with rice pilaf, rosemary roasted potatoes, grilled zucchini & squash, sautéed asparagus. Children's Entrée: child's portion; Entrée Salad: southern BLT. All include (choice of salad, fruit or jello), roll, dessert, or beverage.

January 12 • Served from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Adults \$10; Children \$4; Vegetable Plate \$7

food.mdpc.org

Walking the Mourner's Path

Does it seem like you should be over your grief? Join us for this Christ-centered grief

program designed to help those dealing with the loss of a loved one. Trained facilitators guide the group.

Thursdays, January 16-March 5

3:30-5:00 PM • Ministry Center Room 116

Fee: \$30 for materials

grief.mdpc.org or contact Beverly Fluke:

bfluke@mdpc.org or 713-490-9542

Men's Basketball Registration

Hey men! Are you looking for a way to work off those extra holiday pounds? MDPC will be forming Friday evening teams. Participants will need to provide a team uniform jersey or a numbered T-shirt.

Beginning January 17 – March 13

Registration runs Dec. 30-Jan. 17; fee is \$550

per team or \$55 per individual

Register: sports.mdpc.org

Contact: Diane Seckinger at 713-490-9568

Winter 2020 Alpha

Invite a friend from any faith or non-faith to try Alpha with you. It's a no-pressure way to explore Jesus, with no question, belief, or idea off-limits. It's a place to talk about difficult seasons like having doubts or fears, or being dissatisfied with life. It's a place to simply meet new people or share what you believe. Alpha is for Christians, too, and can help rekindle faith that has cooled.

Tuesdays, Jan. 21-Mar. 10 | 6:30-8:15 PM

Free dinner, free childcare

Info and RSVP: alpha.mdpc.org

Theology On Tap: Is the Black Mirror Our New Reality?

Are humans becoming machines? Are machines becoming humans? With the rise of Artificial Intelligence, we'll explore where the soul fits in, and what it means to be human. How does our faith inform the way we view these ideas? Come hear Dr. Julie Miller discuss the promises and perils of Transhumanism.

Open to Young Adults (20s & 30s)

Tuesday, Feb 11 | 7:00-9:00 PM

Kindred 2515 Waugh Dr.

\$5 gets you craft beer & food

facebook.com/theologyontaphouston

Church in the City

Join your MDPC friends and family for this annual service event. We forego the usual Sunday services, and participate in a variety of service projects, both here and with our ministry partners. There are several new and exciting opportunities this year, so please visit the website for more details.

Sunday, February 23, 2020

CITC.mdpc.org