

Sermon Text: Matthew 2:1-23 Restoration and Obedience

Because the Lord restores His people in Christ Jesus, believers participate in the restoration by obeying the Lord.

1) The Lord restores His people in Christ Jesus.

- a) Raises the lowly—v. 6 “Bethlehem” is “too little” (Micah 5:2) but “by no means least” (Matt. 2:6)
- b) Calls the Great to Submit to Him—vv. 1-12
- c) Restores the exiles by becoming the Exile who returns (Typology)—vv. 13-23
 - i) “Out of Egypt I called My son”—v. 15 (Hos. 11:1)
 - (1) Israel’s Exodus from Egypt
 - (2) Israel’s Second-Exodus from Babylon
 - (3) Israel’s Ultimate-Exodus from Sin in Christ (cf. 1:21)
 - ii) “Rachel weeping for her children”—v. 18 (Jer. 31:15)
 - (1) Jacob refused comfort when Joseph “exiled” (Gen. 37:35)
 - (2) Rachel refused comfort when Israel exiled (Gen. 35:19; Jer. 31:15)
 - (3) Rachel refused comfort when infants of Bethlehem murdered
 - (4) Jeremiah 31 promises hope of New Covenant
 - iii) “He shall be called a Nazarene”—v. 23
 - (1) Nazareth/Nazarene—Hebrew *nazar* means “branch”; Isa. 11:1; Jer. 23:5; 33:15; Zech. 3:8; 6:12
 - (2) Jesus is the Branch that arises from the otherwise dead wood

d) Application:

- i) Exiled souls: mankind is unable to restore itself to God.
- ii) Restored souls: God the Son took our nature upon Himself and went into exile to bring us home to God.
 - (1) Alienation to Adoption—“My son”
 - (2) Dejection to Consolation—“gladness for sorrow” (Jer. 31:13)
 - (3) Death to Life—“a shoot from the stump” (Isa. 11:1)

2) Believers participate in the restoration by obeying the Lord.

- a) Joseph a model of discipleship; not “needed” by God; chosen instrument
- b) Contrast Joseph, Mary, and Wise Men with Herod: no neutrality regarding Jesus (Matt. 12:30a)
- c) Disciples Obey God’s Word
 - i) Scandalous obedience (1:18-20, 24-25; cf. Matt. 10:32-33; Mk. 8:38)
 - ii) Immediate obedience (1:24; cf. Matt. 8:21-22)
 - iii) Exact obedience (2:13-14, 20-21; cf. Matt. 28:20)
 - iv) Persevering obedience (2:12, 13, 22; cf. Matt. 10:22)
 - v) Wise obedience (2:14; 2:22; cf. Matt. 10:16)
 - vi) Selfless obedience (1:25; 2:14; cf. Matt. 16:24)

d) Application:

- i) Don’t serve God as though He needs anything (Acts 17:24-25).
- ii) Rejoice that you have a part in the restoration (Col. 1:24; Acts 5:41; Phil. 1:29).
 - (1) Share the good (unpopular) news!
 - (2) Endure insults and persecutions with hope.
 - (3) Worship Him who was born King of the Jews.

Doxology: “Behold, My servant whom I have chosen, My beloved with whom My soul is well pleased. I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets; a bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not quench, until He brings justice to victory; and in His name the nations will hope.” Matthew 12:18-21 quoting Isaiah 42:1-3