

# Fulfilled

HIS PROMISE KEPT. OUR LONGING MET.

**OPENING UP**

Have you ever found yourself trapped somewhere with no way out? Locked in a room, or a car, or stuck in a sticky situation? How did you eventually escape?

**TEXT****A New Exodus | Matthew 2:13-15, 19-21**

<sup>13</sup>Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

<sup>19</sup>But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup>saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

**Hosea 11:1, 10-11**

<sup>1</sup>When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
and out of Egypt I called my son.

<sup>10</sup>They shall go after the LORD;  
he will roar like a lion;  
when he roars,  
his children shall come trembling from the west;

<sup>11</sup>they shall come trembling like birds from Egypt,  
and like doves from the land of Assyria,  
and I will return them to their homes, declares the LORD.

## MESSAGE OUTLINE

**Big Idea:** In Jesus, God offers deliverance.

1. Recognize your need for deliverance (Matthew 2:13-15, Hosea 11:1)
2. Receive your call back home. (Matthew 2:19-21, Hosea 11:10-11)

## DISCUSSION



- Matthew's gospel shows how Jesus fulfilled the prophecy spoken by Hosea (11:1). In the same way that God sent Moses out of Egypt to deliver his people, God sent Jesus out of Egypt to deliver us. Do you think most people believe they need "deliverance?" Why do you think it's natural for us to think we can handle things ourselves?
- When an angel appeared to Joseph and told him to pack up his family and go to Egypt, he immediately obeyed and was freed from the threat of Herod. Today, angels don't typically bring messages because we now have the Holy Spirit to speak to us. Have you ever received a message from the Holy Spirit calling you to act in obedience? Did you act immediately? Or at all? If you obeyed, did you see freedom from something you didn't even realize you needed?
- Read Romans 3:23-24 & 6:17-18. How do these passages help you see your need for deliverance? How have you found deliverance from sin in Jesus?
- After some time in Egypt, God called Mary, Joseph, and Jesus to return to Israel. This was symbolic of God restoring his relationship with his people. The Israelites were exiled and separated from the presence of God, but now Christ had come... Emmanuel, God with us. And the presence of God, in Jesus, was returning home to Israel. In the same way, God is call us "back home" into his presence. What would it look like for you to "return home" and into the presence of God this holiday season? How does the familiar phrase, "Home for the holidays," hit you in light of this truth?

## LIFE CHALLENGE



Home is meant to be a safe place where peace, love and comfort are found. It's because of that sentiment that this familiar carol has become a classic, *(There's No Place Like) Home for the Holidays*. Something in the human heart craves those things. If they can't be found in our actual homes, they can always be found in the presence of the Lord. Set time aside to spend in the presence of God this week. Who can you share the truth of this week's message with? Who can you open your home to so that they can experience the love of God through your friendship this season?

## CLOSING PRAYER



Lord, thank you for being our Deliverer! Thank you for sending Jesus to save us from our sin and restoring your presence to us. Help us to be sensitive to your Spirit and obedient to the things you call us to do. Open our eyes to how we can invite others "back home" into your arms this holiday season. Amen.