



Father Joseph's Outline for the Sunday After Christmas

Matthew 2:13-23 - Sunday 12/28/2008

**“This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet,
‘Out of Egypt I called My son.’” (Matthew 2:15)**

The angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream, guiding him to ensure the safety of the baby Jesus.

- It is characteristic that, when the angel of the Lord addresses Joseph, he does *not* call the baby “your child” or Mary “your wife”; rather, he calls Jesus “the child” and Mary “His mother”.
 - “Rise, take the child and His mother, and flee to Egypt” (Matthew 2:13)
 - “And he rose and took the child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt” (Matthew 2:14)
 - “Rise, take the child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead” (Matthew 2:20)
 - “And he rose and took the child and His mother and went to the land of Israel” (Matthew 2:21)
- The words of the Gospel are clear when it comes to defining the relationship of Joseph to Jesus and to Mary as that of a guardian and a protector only.

Jesus is the Son of God who fulfills the Old Testament prophecies:

- “The tempter came to Him and said, ‘If you are the **Son** of God, tell these stones to become bread.’” (Matthew 4: 3)
- “‘What do you want with us, **Son** of God?’ they shouted. ‘Have You come here to torture us before the appointed time?’” (Matthew 8:29)
- “All things have been committed to Me by My Father. No one knows the **Son** except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the **Son** and those to whom the **Son** chooses to reveal Him.” (Matthew 11:27)
- “Then those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, ‘Truly You are the **Son** of God.’” (Matthew 14:33)
- God calls Jesus His Son, and His love for Him is apparent and eminent from the start.
 - “And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my **Son**, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.’” (Matthew 3:17)

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Points to remember:

- The prophecy recited by Matthew: “Out of Egypt I called My son” (Matthew 2:15) is a reminder of what was spoken by the Prophet Hosea.
 - The Prophet Hosea spoke by the Lord, saying, “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son” (Hosea 11:1).
- Jesus’ going to Egypt, then returning and entering into the Promised Land again has a special significance.
 - Jesus went through all the stages that Adam and his descendants went through, to reverse the negative impact that was created by Adam and his children.
 - “So it is written: ‘The first man **Adam** became a living being’; the last **Adam** (meaning Jesus) a life-giving spirit.” (1 Corinthians 15:45)

Important:

Jesus, through His redemptive work, reverses the impact of Adam, which has great influence on humanity and its salvation.

Death was able to take over all people who were born of Adam, even though they did not commit the same sin he did. Likewise, through the redemptive victory of Jesus on behalf of all mankind, the power of death was revoked against those who are of Christ because of His accomplishment.

The birth of Jesus Christ and the salvation that came with it and through His redemptive work is not merely a rhetorical statement, but is in fact a reality: “For as in **Adam** all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.” (1 Corinthians 15:22)

Remember:

“Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, ‘Are You not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against You?’ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked Him, ‘Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?’ ‘I am,’ said Jesus. ‘And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.’ The high priest tore his clothes. ‘Why do we need any more witnesses?’ he asked. ‘You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?’ They all condemned Him as worthy of death.” (Mark 14:60-64)

When Jesus was still a baby and Herod was seeking to destroy Him, the Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph to protect Jesus because His time had not yet come.

But when His time *had* come, while He stood in front of the high priest, instead of staying silent or not admitting His identity, He revealed who He is- an action that caused Him to die, but causes us to live.

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Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, my salvation, I understand that many people may see the truth but never understand it or even hate it. Do not let this happen to me, Your servant. Do not let the ambitions of the world take over my soul and make me forget You, and do not let them drive my soul away from You, because I love You.

Enlighten my eyes in the same way You enlightened the eyes of Your disciples, the wise virgins, the prodigal son, and the thief on the cross. Grant me Your divine kingdom, as You did to the thief on the cross, because, just like him, I beseech You to enable me to enjoy Your eternal glory and that of Your eternal and loving Father and Your all-holy and life-giving Spirit. Amen.

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