

December 1, 2024

## Scandalous Christmas: Midnight Runaway (Matthew 2)

*Prepare to Take the Unexpected Road*

*Warmup: Relate an unexpected trip you have taken.*

### READ Matthew 2

- Why was Herod disturbed by the Magi's announcement of the Messiah?
- Why was "all of Jerusalem" disturbed by the Magi's announcement of the Messiah?
- What are two Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in this chapter?
- How does God warn the Magi and then Joseph?
- What is God saying to you in these verses?

### REFLECT

- As a man of faith, Joseph probably had several questions for God. For one, as Joseph follows God's instructions, he must uproot the family and travel the unexpected road to Egypt. Because Joseph was a righteous man obeying God, do you think Joseph was surprised that he and his family were faced with yet another journey on a dangerous road? Why or why not?
- Throughout this narrative, God repeatedly gives direction to the Magi and to Joseph and Mary. When have you experienced God's specific direction? In your current circumstances, how are you expecting God to provide direction?
- How do you reconcile or process the fact that God has unexpected and sometimes difficult roads for His sons and daughters? How do you find hope and reassurance during these trials?

### RESPOND

- How are you preparing for the unexpected road ahead?
- How has God guided you in the past? How do you see Him guiding you forward?
- How is the Spirit leading you to respond this week?

*"To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ."*