

## This was to fulfill

Matt 2.13-23

Faith principle.... the paths that the Nazarene walked in our world created patterns.... Those patterns, when we integrate them into our lives, allow us to participate in what the Nazarene is doing in our world today.

- This is how we Fulfill God's Plan for our lives!

Faith problem.... Most of us are walking on paths that were created by patterns worn into us by our old life.... These paths keep our new life in Jesus of Nazareth hidden from us.

### A Faith-Practice that inter-weaves of the Spiritual & the Natural worlds

Going Deeper for us means walking out the Pattern He has given us....

- His greatest BOND is with the unattractive
- His closest BROTHERS are those who share in His rejection
- His deepest BEAUTY are the people He raises from the ashes

READ Matt 2.13-23

### 13-15.... His BOND is with the most unattractive

Understanding the divine REVERSAL in God's plan....

- The Overlooked.... the Written-off.... the Hated.... the Disgusting.... the Unwanted.... the Undesirable
  - Mary is nourished & Joseph is watched over
  - In the "darkest of nights" God provides the way for those He loves

God in Christ is Reconciling the world to Himself....

• The Magi (Assyrian tyrants) *bowed* & the Land of Egypt (old slave-master) was *blessed* Isa 19.1, 19-24.... *Behold, the Lord is riding on a swift cloud and comes to Egypt; and the idols of Egypt will tremble at his presence, and the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them.... In that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord at its border. It will be a sign and a witness to the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt. When they cry to the Lord because of oppressors, he will send them a savior and defender, and deliver them. And the Lord will make himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that day and worship with sacrifice and offering, and they will make vows to the Lord and perform them. And the Lord will strike Egypt, striking and healing, and they will return to the Lord, and he will listen to their pleas for mercy and heal them. In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance."*

## 16-18.... His Band of BROTHERS are those who share his rejection

These are David's Mythic Mighty Men....

- Ps 8.2.... *Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.*

The simplest definition of Innocence is "to not know of the fear of death"....

- Rev. 12.11.... *And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.*

But there is pain in the offering.... Ramah is the city of Saul, tribe of Benjamin, the last of Rachel.... Her memorial

- *'the children's grief was for separation and was short lived, replaced with the glory of martyrdom.... the mother's grief is continual in the remembrance of both the stealing away and the murder of her children.'* – Anonymous Father

## 2.19-23.... His BEAUTY is one that blossoms from ashes

The *prophets all* Promise the Branch....

Isa 11.1.... *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch [Nazarene] from his roots shall bear fruit.*

He is the Dawn that raises us from the ashes....

Isa 8.18-9.2.... *Behold, I and the children whom the Lord has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the Lord of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion. And when they say to you, "Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter," should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. They will pass through the land, greatly distressed and hungry. And when they are hungry, they will be enraged and will speak contemptuously against their king and their God, and turn their faces upward. And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.*

*But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.*

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.*

Challenge..... Go Deeper by walking out the Pattern of the Nazarene

- Demons - Mk 1.24/Lk 4.34..... fear the Branch & Angels - Mk 16.6 confess the Branch
- The Blind - Mk 10.47.... and the Lame – Acts 3.6 rejoice in the Branch
- His Disciples - Lk 24.19.... and his Betrayers – John 18.5-7 are looking for the Branch
- Pilate inscribed His Cross - Jn 19.19 & Peter ushered in the Church's birth- Acts 2.22

Paul's accusers- Acts 24.5.... *"For we have found this man a plague, one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes."*