

God Works in the Detours of Life

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Matthew 2:13-15

This has to be one of the more bizarre and under looked pieces of the Christmas story. For some reason, as good as it is, "A Charlie Brown Christmas" does not depict Jesus fleeing to Egypt to escape an assassination attempt. One of the reasons we often don't think about this passage at Christmas is that we're not really sure what to do with it. It's so sudden and so jarring, it feels like it doesn't fit with the rest of the narrative we love.

But sometimes life is like that. There are moments that are so sudden and so jarring that we aren't sure what to do with them and how to process them. In all of our planning and processing, we find ourselves in situations we would not have imagined for ourselves. Our health isn't what we hoped for, the money isn't going as far as we thought, and there is more family drama than we care to think about. But somehow in the detours of life, God can still work.

God wasn't caught off guard by Mary and Joseph having to flee to Egypt. In fact, he orchestrated it into part of His plan. By their fleeing to Egypt, it led to the fulfillment of a thousand-year-old prophecy. Your situation in life may not be leading up to the fulfillment of a major prophecy. But you can have hope. God still works in the detours of life. He is not surprised by your situation and will orchestrate the current details of your life into His greater purpose.