

## Marinating in God's Word: Matthew 2:13-23

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is good news, not escapist fiction. That means it brings good news to the harsh realities of life, both for us individually and for the larger world.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- From the first page of the gospel, the mystery of God's saving work through Jesus is cheek and jowl with the harsh realities of this world. Chapter 2 begins with the mystery of the Magi's visit. Our verses feature more the harsh realities. What harsh realities do you see here? The mystery is not restricted to the first half of Matthew 2. Where do you see it here?
- Herod was named "great" for his architectural vision and kingly power. Would you call him "Great"? Why or why not?
- The unfolding drama of Jesus' first days seems hectic and random. Yet Matthew cites centuries old prophecies that Jesus' life fulfills. There are three here. Find them. In what ways has your life seemed random and chaotic in the last year? Even so, do you believe God is working a plan in your life? Why? What does that mean for how you live?
- Joseph and Mary went from a settled and predictable life to being international refugees, just like that! How were they vulnerable because of Jesus? How were they safe because of Jesus? What does that mean for you as you enter 2019?

Next week we will focus on Matthew 3:1-12.