

HE WILL BE CALLED A NAZARENE

MATTHEW 2:19-23 // TODD DUGARD

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The coming of the Christ child makes me aware that God is on the move (2:19) and that Satan also is on the move (2:20). Thus, I should be on the move actively obeying God's Word (2:21) and carefully discerning the times (2:22) while normally living my life (2:23).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you read or watched the Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis? ***Aslan, (the Lion) represents Christ, and before they see him, the Narnians are filled with hope when they hear that he is on the move. They all felt "quite different."*** How did you feel different when you realized that Jesus moves in this world to rescue you from Satan's grasp and the cold experience of living in sin?
2. ***As Jesus grew up, all the extraordinary circumstances of his birth faded into the background. Living in Nazareth, it was not easy for people to see God's will through this time.*** How might it help others to know that God's plan included a child's development and the typical, even mundane, experiences of human life?
3. ***Since Satan cannot devour the child, he'll try to devour you. That's why we have Scriptures (see 1 Peter 5:8) that warn us to protect ourselves from attack.*** What defences have you set up against Satan's attacks? How are they working for you?

His methods are often subtle: addictions start innocently; fantasies turn to flirting then to flings and families fail; having transforms into wanting and pursuing at all costs; any good gift from God can be perverted into an idol we worship; the natural order of things is upended by a new order based on "my truth."

4. ***There are complex decisions in the Christian life when we want God to lead us supernaturally, like through a dream, as we attempt to discern the times. However, we***

