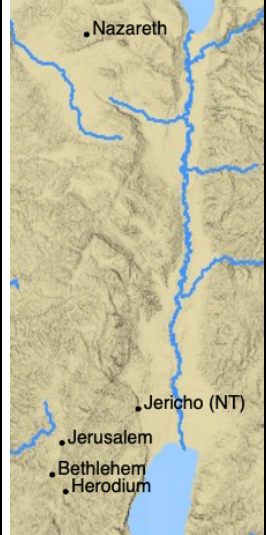


Word Wednesday Lesson 5: The Nazarene – Matthew 2 & Luke 2:39-52

Glossary:

- **Antipas** – Son of Herod the Great who ruled Galilee and Perea. Antipas beheaded John the Baptist and mocked Jesus during His trial. Antipas ruled from 4 BC to AD 39. The names “Herod” or “Herod the Tetrarch” during Jesus’ adult ministry refer to Herod Antipas.
- **Archelaus** – Son of Herod the Great who ruled Samaria, Judea, and Idumea from 4 BC to AD 6, when he was banished by Rome for his incompetence.
- **Ioudaioi** – (‘you-DIE-oi’) literally “Jews,” but as used by the Gospel writers in the Bible, it could mean anything from all Jewish people, to only those in Judea (as opposed to Galilee), or to only a very, very small subset of corrupt Jews in Jerusalem. We need to watch the context to determine which use is intended.
- **Magi** – a cross between an astronomer and a pagan astrologer, which was considered a “science” in the ancient world. Magi were generally wealthy and well-respected for their divinatory skills. The Magi could have been from Arabia or Persia.
- **Philip** – Son of Herod who ruled Gaulanitis (where we get the modern name of the region, the Golan Heights). He is the namesake of Caesarea Philippi (Matthew 16:13). Philip ruled from 4 BC to AD 34.
- **Procurators** – regional magistrates or governors. The Herods were generally autonomous, but the procurators answered directly to Rome. As Luke 3:1 notes, Pontius Pilate was the procurator during Jesus’ adult ministry.

Setting:



Nazareth |
Bethlehem |
Jerusalem

Memory: Matthew 2:15 – “Out of _____ I have called _____.”

Walking in His Dust: 2 Tim 2:15 (KJV/ESV)– “_____ to show yourself _____ to God, a _____ who has no need to be _____, rightly handling the _____ of _____.”

Lesson notes & questions (teaching or videos):

Lesson Reflections (review prior to Apply nights):

What is at least one new thing I learned about loving God or loving my neighbor?

Which topics discussed would I like to know more about, or need clarification on?

How does the Holy Spirit want me to apply the lesson’s Scripture to my discipleship?

(You may wish to spend time in prayer before answering.)



“Go make disciples...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Mt 28:19-20)

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APPLY! (30-35 minutes)

- Share your “Lesson Reflections” responses with the group. Jot down others’ observations.
- Which of the “pre-ministry” narratives (Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2) stands out most to you and why? Are there any differences between your former impressions of these events compared with what we discussed and read in the biblical text? If so, what are they?
- The command to “fear not” (Luke 2:10) appears hundreds of times in Scripture. What is the problem with worry or fear as it pertains to our discipleship? What are practical steps we can take to “fear not”?
- Reflect on the shepherds’ prompt obedience to the announcement of Jesus’ birth; notice how they dropped everything and went to see Him. How does it compare to your response? How could you better respond in terms of rejoicing and sharing the news with others?
- Re-read Luke 2:48-52.
 - What are some things about Jesus that Luke wants his readers to know in Luke 2:49?
 - Perhaps, Joseph & Mary went about their normal lives in the years that followed the miraculous birth and forgot how special He was. How do we as disciples fall into the same pattern and how can we prevent this?
 - As disciples of Jesus, what can we learn from His humble submission to his earthly parents for three decades?

GO! (20-25 minutes)

What is God saying to you right now and how are you responding?

Matthew 9:37-38 – the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few, therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

What is something you are excited about right now?

Psalms 37:4 Delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.

What is a big challenge you are facing right now?

Gal 6:2 Bear one another’s burdens and so fulfill the Law of Christ

Who is on your heart right now and why?

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

Review last lesson’s GO section. What prayers has God answered?

Philippians 4:8 Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Pray for one another!