



Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

Matthew 2:13-15
NRSV

“Not What I Expected”

December 29, 2019

In between Christmas and New Years’, we deal with _____ expectations.

As we get older, our expectations at Christmas shift from being about what’s under the _____, to who’s around the _____.

The problem is that unmet _____ can steal the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ in us if we’re not careful.

The First Christmas

The first Christmas, which started off with awe and beauty, turned into an _____ to Egypt by night.

Grief, loneliness, fear, disappointment, exhaustion. All of these were a part of the first _____ story.

How do we navigate those times when our expectations don’t match our experiences? (Expectations ≠ Experiences)

Even the most faithful and _____ people of faith experience seasons of confusion, disappointment, and failed expectations.

First, we can remember and rest in God’s love and _____.

In the midst of a fast-changing world,

God’s love for us remains constant and unchanging.

Second, we can rely on _____.

When life takes an unexpected turn – whether it’s at Christmas or not – don’t turn _____!

Third, we need to understand that sometimes, things just don’t make _____.

Fourth, wait. This is a _____.

Egypt. The Tomb. Both were just short seasons of a much longer and glorious story that we are all a part of.

Action Steps: 1) Set your expectations, not on everything always going the _____ way, but on Jesus, who is the Way.

2) Be _____ – with God and with one another.

3) Expect to encounter God in _____.