

## Sermon 讲道信息

12-28-2025

### *Beyond the Manger: God with Us 马槽之外：神与我们同在*

经文: Matthew 马太福音 2:13-23

#### Introduction 引言

We love our Christmas tree. For the past two years, Clarice and I had a miniature tabletop tree.

我们深爱着圣诞树。过去两年，我和克拉丽丝只摆过迷你桌面的圣诞树。

But this year, we got a regular size, 6 feet tall Christmas tree. It is an artificial tree, but still.

但今年，我们添置了标准尺寸的六英尺高圣诞树。虽是人造树，却依然令人欣喜。

We got it on sale at Canadian Tire, so that's awesome in this economy. It comes with preinstalled lights

It makes our home feel really warm and festive.

趁着加拿大杂货店的促销购入，这在经济不景气时实在太棒了。树上还预装了彩灯，它让家充满温暖的节日氛围。

It also doubles as a soother of sort for our daughter Aletheia. When she is fuzzy, we show her the lighted up tree, and she usually calms down. So yes, our Christmas tree is pretty great.

对女儿阿莱西娅来说更是种安抚良方。当她哭闹时，只要让她看亮闪闪的树，通常就能平静下来。所以没错，我们的圣诞树真是棒极了。

But I know that after the Christmas season is over, the tree will have to come down. It will have to be dismantled, put in a box, and stored away.

但我知道圣诞季节结束后，圣诞树终将被收起。它需要被拆解，装进箱子，妥善收纳。

For Filipinos, this might be as late as just before Valentine's Day, I'm told. For everyone else, maybe a little sooner. But regardless, eventually, the tree will have to come down, as it should.据我所知，对菲律宾人而言，这可能要拖到情人节前夕。其他人或许会稍早些处理。但无论如何，圣诞树终将如期撤下。

Eventually, we will have to journey past the warm glow of the Christmas season back to the reality of our everyday life.我们终将告别圣诞季节的温暖光芒，重返日常生活的现实轨迹。

Our passage this morning knows this, too. Matthew's Gospel does not let us stay forever in the warm glow of the manger scene.今晨的经文同样洞悉此理。《马太福音》不让我们永远沉浸在马槽场景的温暖光芒中。

The angels' songs to the shepherds and the Magi's worship are glorious and beautiful. But after they left, the story takes a dark turn as we are presented with the reality of this broken world.

天使向牧羊人的颂歌与博士的敬拜固然辉煌动人。但当他们离去后，故事骤然转入阴暗篇章。我们被带入这个破碎世界的现实。

This passage is often overlooked in Christmas readings. We do not see this story on Christmas cards.

这段经文常在圣诞诵读中被忽略。圣诞贺卡上也难觅其踪影。

It is heavy, uncomfortable, and heartbreaking. Family being displaced, children suffer, and evil wins for a time. 它沉重、令人窒息、令人心碎。家庭流离失所，孩童饱受苦难，邪恶暂时得胜。

Yet it is recorded in Scripture for a profound reason. To show us the very real world that Jesus enters into our world. To show us that he is Emmanuel, God with us.

然而圣经如此记载自有深意。为要向我们显明耶稣降临的真实世界，就是我们的世界，为要向我们显明祂是以马内利，神与我们同在。

#### Verses 13-15 第13-15节

The passage begins with urgency. *"Get up, take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt."* (v.13)

这段经文开篇便充满紧迫感：“起来，带着孩子和他母亲逃往埃及去。”（第13节）

Notice that there's no time to do anything. No time to ponder and evaluate. No time to plan and double check.

No time to gather and pack things. 请注意，此刻已无暇他顾—无暇思量权衡、无暇周密筹划、无暇收拾行装。

An angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream and the message is clear. Leave. Now. Tonight. Herod is coming for the child. 耶和華的使者在夢中向約瑟顯現，信息清晰明確：離開。立刻。今夜。希律王正追殺這孩子。

Can you even imagine that moment? The atmosphere, the tension. Joseph wakes Mary in the darkness telling her that they have to leave home now.

你能想象那一刻嗎？那氛圍，那緊張。約瑟在黑暗中喚醒瑪麗亞，告訴她必須立刻離開家。

She's most likely still recovering from childbirth. Baby Jesus is only weeks old. They have just received visitors bearing extravagant gifts. 她很可能還在分娩後恢復中。嬰兒耶穌才出生幾周。他們剛接待過帶來奢華禮物的訪客。

And now they're told to become refugees, to flee to a foreign country, to leave everything behind 如今却被告知要成為難民，逃往異國他鄉，拋下所有的一切。

From the opening verses of today's passage, we learn two things about our God.

從今日經文的开篇，我們認識到關於上帝的兩件事：

One, that God's protection does not always look like what we expect. Often, we want his protection to mean for us comfort, stability, and staying put.

其一，上帝的保護未必符合我們的期待。我們常盼望祂的庇護帶來安逸、穩定與安居。

We want the angel of the Lord to say, *"Don't worry, I'll put a wall of protection around your house."*

我們渴望天使宣告：“別擔心，我必築起護牆環繞你家。”

But instead, his protection comes through disruption. Through a midnight escape. Through becoming homeless in a foreign land. Even the King of Kings becomes a refugee. Let that sink in for a moment.

然而祂的庇護却常伴隨顛覆而來，通過午夜的逃亡，通過在異鄉淪為無家可歸者，連萬王之王都成了流亡者。請靜心體會這深意片刻。

Two, that God's way forward requires total obedience in difficult circumstances. Joseph didn't get to debate the wisdom of the plan. He didn't get to consult with the elders of the village or take a vote.

He had to trust and obey in the middle of the night, with incomplete information, heading into uncertainty.

其二、神的道路要求我們在艱難處境中全然順服。約瑟無暇辯論計劃的明智性，他無法征詢村中長老的意见，也無法進行表決，他必須在深夜裡憑着不完整的資訊，懷着對未知的恐懼，全然信靠並遵行。

How many of us are waiting for perfect clarity before we obey? 我們中有多少人總在等待萬事分明才肯順服？

How many of us want God's will to make complete sense before we act?

我們中有多少人總盼望神旨意全然清晰才肯行動？

How many of us want God's command to align with our comfort before we move?

我們中有多少人總要求神的命令與舒適相符才肯前行？

Joseph shows us that faith often moves before understanding arrives. That sometimes obedience means getting up in the dark and just start walking.

約瑟向我們表明：信心常在理解之前先行。有時順服意味着在黑暗中起身，只管啟程前行。

He didn't know how long they would be in Egypt. 他不知道他們會在埃及停留多久。

He didn't know how they would survive there. 他不知道他們如何在那兒生存下去。

He didn't know if Herod's soldiers would catch them on the road. 他不知道希律的士兵會不會在路上追上他們。

But he knew God had spoken and that was enough. 但他知道上帝已發話，這就足够了。

And notice this, Joseph's obedience didn't just save his own family. His total obedience to God preserved the Messiah. 請注意，約瑟的順服不僅拯救了他的家庭，他對神的全然順服保全了彌賽亞。

His willingness to be disrupted, to be displaced, and to be put in difficulty meant that God's entire redemptive plan could move forward. 他甘願承受顛簸、流離與困苦，使神的救贖計劃得以推進。

Your obedience matters more than you know. The effects of your faithfulness extend far beyond what you can see. 你的順服比你想象的更重要，你忠心的影響遠超你所能看見的。

So here is the question: 那么问题来了:

What is God asking you to do that you've been putting off because it doesn't feel safe? What act of obedience have you been postponing until you have more information, more resources, more confidence?

上帝要求你去做的事, 你却因觉得不安全而一再拖延? 你推迟了多少顺服的行动, 只因等待更多信息、更多资源、更多信心?

Maybe this is his call to you once again as we enter a new year. *"Get up. It's time to move"*

或许在新的一年里伊始, 这是祂再次向你发出的呼唤: “起来吧, 是时候行动了”

### **Verses 16-18 第 16-18 节**

But we know that while the holy family escapes, others do not. *"When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under."* (v. 16)

但我们知道, 当神圣的家逃脱时, 其他人未能幸免。 “希律见自己被博学之士愚弄, 极其愤怒, 差人将伯利恒城里和四境所有的男孩, 根据他向博学之士仔细查问到的时间, 凡两岁以内的, 都杀尽了。” (马太福音 2:16)

This is the part of the Christmas story we don't talk about very much. This is what gets left out of songs and carols. The massacre of innocent children.

这是圣诞故事中鲜少提及的部分。这是颂歌与圣咏刻意回避的篇章, 无辜孩童的惨遭屠戮。

Herod, paranoid and insecure, lashing out at a threat he cannot control. If he can't find the one child, he'll kill them all. Better to murder dozens of innocent children than risk losing his throne.

希律王, 偏执而不安, 对无法掌控的威胁肆意发泄。若寻不到那个孩子, 便将所有孩童尽数屠戮。宁可杀害数十名无辜孩童, 也不愿冒失去王位的风险。

It is through this atrocity that we see how the incarnation has consequences. When the light enters the darkness, the darkness doesn't just disappear quietly. It fights back in the darkest kind of way.

正是通过这场暴行, 我们看见道成肉身的后果。当光明进入黑暗, 黑暗不会悄然消逝。它以最阴暗的方式发起反击。

Matthew then quotes Jeremiah: *"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."* (v. 18) This is one of the most haunting verses in all of Scripture.

马太接着引用耶利米的话: “在拉玛听见号啕大哭的声音, 是拉结哭她儿女, 不肯受安慰, 因为他们都不在了。”

(18 节) 这是整部圣经中最令人心碎的经文之一。

As a new parent, I read this passage now with a newfound sense of horror and grief. Rachel, representing the mothers of Bethlehem, weeping, inconsolable, refusing comfort, because her children are dead.

作为新手父母, 如今读到这段经文时, 我感受到前所未有的恐惧与悲痛。拉结代表着伯利恒的母亲们, 她们在哭泣、悲痛欲绝、拒绝安慰、只因她的孩子已逝。

Matthew doesn't try to explain away the horror. He doesn't offer easy answers. He doesn't say, *"Well, it was all part of God's plan so really it's fine"*

马太不试图淡化这恐怖。他不给出简单答案。他不会说: “这都是上帝的安排, 其实没关系”

No! He acknowledges the legitimate, unanswered grief. He lets the mothers of Bethlehem weep. This is so important for us to understand. The gospel does not leave out the suffering.

绝对不! 他承认那正当而未被抚慰的悲痛。他让伯利恒的母亲们痛哭。这点我们必须深刻理解。福音从未回避苦难。

The world is sinful, broken, violent. Jesus entered into it anyway. And his coming didn't immediately fix everything. We live in a world where children still die. Where violence still erupts. Where people still suffer.

世界充满罪恶、破碎与暴力。耶稣仍毅然降临其中。祂的到来并未即刻修复一切。我们仍活在孩童夭折的世界。

暴力仍四处蔓延的世界。人们仍在受苦的世界。

And because of this, sometimes we're discouraged. We are tempted to think that God doesn't care

Or that our faith is pointless.正因如此, 我们有时会灰心丧气。不禁怀疑上帝是否漠不关心。或觉得信仰毫无意义。

But Matthew shows us that God never promised to remove all suffering before Christ returns. He promised something different.但马太向我们揭示：上帝从未承诺在基督再来前消除一切苦难，祂许下的应许截然不同。That he would enter into the suffering with us. That he would weep with us. That he would know our pain. The Christmas story includes the pain and suffering. It has to because that's the world Jesus came to save. 祂要与我们同担苦楚、要与我们同哭同泣、要亲身感受我们的痛楚。圣诞故事里包含着伤痛与苦难。祂必须如此，因为这正是耶稣降世拯救的世界。

Today, maybe you're angry at God. Something terrible has happened, and the Christmas joy feels like a cruel joke.今日，或许你正对上帝满怀愤怒。某件可怕的事发生了，圣诞的喜悦仿佛成了残酷的玩笑。

Maybe you lost someone this year. Maybe you received a devastating diagnosis. Maybe your marriage fell apart. Maybe your child walked away from the faith. Maybe you're watching evil triumph in our society.或许今年你失去了至亲。或许你收到了毁灭性的诊断。或许你的婚姻支离破碎。或许你的孩子背离了信仰。或许你正目睹邪恶在社会中得势。And in all of this you're thinking, *"If God is good and powerful, why didn't he stop it?"*而在这所有境遇中，你不断思索着，“如果上帝是仁慈而全能的，为什么祂没有阻止这一切？”

This passage does not give easy answers, but it does show us two important truths. First, we are allowed to grieve and mourn. We don't have to always be okay. Notice that Matthew doesn't say, *"Rachel wept for just a little bit and then remembered that God works all things for good"*

这段经文没有提供简单的答案，却向我们揭示了两个重要真理：首先，我们被允许悲伤哀恸，不必时刻强颜欢笑。请注意马太并未记载：“拉结哭了一会儿，便想起神叫万物都互相效力，叫爱神的人得益处。”

No! She is refusing to be comforted. Her children are dead. And Matthew lets that stand for as long as it takes. God doesn't shame us for grieving. He doesn't demand that we put on a happy face and pretend that everything is fine.不是！她拒绝被安慰，她的孩子已逝。马太任由这般情形持续多久都无妨，上帝不会因我们的悲伤而羞辱我们。祂不要求我们强颜欢笑，假装一切安好。

Second, we see that God is there in the midst of our pain. This is true. When we ask *"where are you, Lord?"* He is right there with us. Our God does not remain distant from suffering. He enters into it fully. He bears it.

其次，我们看见上帝就在我们痛苦的深处。这是真实的。当我们问“主啊，你在哪里？”祂就在我们身旁。我们的上帝不会远离苦难。祂全然进入其中，祂承担了这一切。

This same Jesus who escaped Herod's sword will later submit to Pilate's cross on our behalf. The blameless Son of God would later willingly die an excruciating and humiliating death bearing the sin of the world on his back.这位曾逃过希律刀剑的耶稣，后来为了我们甘愿屈服于彼拉多的十字架，无罪上帝之子，后来甘愿承受着痛苦与羞辱的死亡，将世人的罪孽扛在肩上。

I think this changes how we respond to suffering. We don't have to try to explain away the horror of our broken world. We don't always have to have all the answers to evil.我认为这改变了我们面对苦难的方式。我们不必竭力为这破碎世界的恐怖寻找借口。我们不必总要为邪恶提供所有答案。

But we can point to a God who does not stay away at a safe distant from pain and suffering.

但我们可以指向一位上帝——祂不会在痛苦与苦难前退居安全的距离之外。

We can point to a Savior who knows what it means to lose people, to watch injustice prevail, to experience the darkness of a fallen world.

我们可以指向一位救主——祂深知失去至亲的滋味，目睹不公横行的滋味，体验堕落世界黑暗的滋味。

If you're in a season of grief right now, I want you to know this. Your anger and confusion and pain don't separate you from God's love.

若你正身处悲伤的季节，请记住这些话语：你的愤怒、困惑与痛苦，不会让你与神的爱隔绝。

You don't have to pretend to be okay. You don't have to rush to resurrection before you've lived through Good Friday. Jesus is there with you.你不必强装坚强，不必在经历受难日之前，就急于复活。耶稣与你同在。

He can handle your questions. He can hold your rage. He's big enough for your doubt.

祂能承接你的疑问，能容纳你的怒火，祂的胸怀足以容纳你的怀疑。

### Verses 19-23 第 19-23 节

Eventually, Herod dies. The angel appears to Joseph again. *"Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead"* (v.20)

最终，希律王去世了。天使再次向约瑟显现说：“起来，带着孩子和他母亲往以色列地去吧，因为那些想要害这孩子性命的人已经死了”（第 20 节）

So they go. But when Joseph hears that Herod's son Archelaus is ruling in Judea, he's afraid.

于是他们启程。但约瑟听说希律的儿子亚基老在犹太作王，便心生恐惧。

Another dream, another warning, another redirect. 又一个梦境，又一次警示，又一次指引。

They ended up instead in Nazareth, a small town in Galilee 他们最终却来到了加利利的一个小镇——拿撒勒。

Think about what this means for a minute. Years have passed in Egypt. The baby has become a toddler, maybe a young boy. 请想一想这意味着什么。在埃及的岁月流逝。婴儿已长成蹒跚学步的孩童，或许已是少年。

They've most likely built some kind of life there. Joseph probably found work. Maybe they made friends.

Maybe they learned the language.

他们很可能在那里建立了某种生活，约瑟大概找到了工作，或许结交了朋友，或许学会了当地语言。

And then suddenly, they're told to go back. But they can't go home to Bethlehem. They have to go somewhere else. To Nazareth, a nothing town. 然而突然间，他们被告知必须返回。但他们无法回到故乡伯利恒。他们必须另寻他处，前往拿撒勒——一座无名小镇。

A place so insignificant that later people will ask *"Can anything good come from Nazareth?"* (John 1:46)

这地方如此不起眼，后来人们竟会质疑：“拿撒勒能出什么好东西？”（约翰福音 1:46）

As we come to the end of our text, we learn one more thing about our God. That his plans often involve detours, delays, and destinations we wouldn't have chosen for ourselves. 当我们读到经文的尾声，又领悟到关于上帝的一件事：祂的计划常包含迂回、延迟，以及我们自己绝不会选择的终点。

Joseph and Mary probably didn't plan to raise Jesus in Egypt. They didn't plan to settle in Nazareth. But God was working through every unexpected turns to accomplish his purposes.

约瑟和马利亚或许从未想过要在埃及抚养耶稣，他们也未曾计划定居拿撒勒。但上帝正借着每个意外转折，成就祂的旨意。

So today, how many of us are frustrated because life hasn't gone according to our plans?

那么今天，我们当中有多少人正因生活未按计划发展而感到沮丧？

How many of us feel stuck in places we never intended to be, doing things we never thought we would do?

又有多少人发现自己困在从未想过会停留的地方，做着从未想过会做的事？

How many of us look at our lives and think *"This isn't what I signed up for?"*

有多少人审视自己的人生时会想：“这可不是我当初想要的”？

Joseph could have said the same thing. *"I signed up to be a carpenter in Bethlehem, not a refugee in Egypt."*

*"I signed up for a normal life, not this constant upheaval"* 约瑟本可以这样说：“我本该在伯利恒当木匠，岂料沦为埃及的难民。” “我本该过平凡生活，岂料终日颠沛流离。”

But he remained attentive to God's voice. He stayed obedient even when the path made no sense.

And through his faithfulness, God accomplished the salvation of the world.

但他始终倾听上帝的声音，即便前路晦暗难辨，他仍持守顺服。正因他的忠信，上帝成就了世界的救赎。

So let me ask you this as you enter into 2026. 那么，当你步入 2026 年之际，让我问你：

What would it look like for you to stop fighting your current circumstances?

若你停止抗拒当下处境，生活会呈现怎样的景象？

What would it look like for you to start asking God what he wants to teach you where you are in life right now?  
若你开始求问上帝——祂想在你此刻的人生境遇中教你什么，又会是怎样的景象？

What would change if you viewed this difficult season not as a mistake or a punishment, but as a detour God is taking you on?若你不再将这艰难时节视为过错或惩罚，而是看作上帝引领你的迂回之路，又会如何改变？

What if God has you exactly where you need to be, even if it's not where you want to be?

倘若上帝让你恰好身处所需之地——即便那并非你所向往之处——又当如何？

## **Conclusion** 结论

Christmas doesn't end with a manger scene. It doesn't end with wise men worshipping and angels singing. It continues through the uncertainty of Egypt. Through the tears of Bethlehem. Through the obscurity and scorn of Nazareth.

圣诞节并非止于马槽场景，不止于博士朝拜与天使颂歌，它延续至埃及的流亡岁月，流淌过伯利恒的泪水，穿越拿撒勒的默默无闻与世人轻蔑。

The Christmas story is glorious, but it comes at great cost.圣诞故事固然辉煌，却伴随着沉重代价。

The King who came at Christmas is a King who knows suffering. He knows displacement. He knows what it's like to be hunted, hated, misunderstood. He knows what it's like when life doesn't go according to plan. When the path forward is unclear.

圣诞降临的君王，是深谙苦难的君王。祂知晓流离失所的滋味，祂体会过被追捕、遭憎恨、受误解的煎熬，祂明白当人生偏离轨道时的无助，当前路迷茫时的惶惑。

And he came anyway. And that's the gospel. That's the good news. God didn't wait for the world to be safe and comfortable before he entered it.

祂依然来临，这就是福音。这就是好消息。上帝并未等待世界变得安全舒适才降临。

He came into the mess, into the violence, into the uncertainty.祂走进混乱，走进暴力，走进未知。

He came as a vulnerable baby, to vulnerable parents, in a vulnerable time.

祂以脆弱的婴孩降生，生于脆弱的父母，在脆弱的时代。

He came not just to be with us in the joy, but to be with us in the tears.

祂不仅为与我们同享欢欣而来，更为与我们共赴泪水而来。

Not just to celebrate with us, but also to suffer with us.不仅为与我们同庆，更要与我们同受苦。

Not just to lead us home eventually, but to walk with us through this long journey here on earth.

不仅为最终引领我们回家，更要在这一尘世漫漫旅途与我们同行。

Through all the detours and delays and unexpected destinations.伴我们走过所有迂回、延误与意外的终点。

So as we journey through the Christmas season into the new year, let's remember the whole story.

当我们穿越圣诞季节迈向新年，请铭记整个故事。

Let's remember that following Jesus doesn't mean everything will be easy.

请记住跟随耶稣并非意味着一切都会轻松。

But it does mean we'll never walk alone.但这意味着我们永不孤单前行。

It means that no matter where we go, no matter what we face, we follow a King who has been there before us.这意味着无论我们去往何方，无论面对何种境遇，我们跟随的君王早已先行抵达。

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.道成了肉身，住在我们中间。

The light has entered the darkness and the darkness has not, cannot, will not overcome it.

光照在黑暗里，黑暗却没有胜过光，也永远不能胜过光。

Amen 阿们。