

Back Home
Another Way
mat. 2:12

Some weeks ago we were celebrating the birth of Jesus. Prophecies were read and songs were sung and all of us felt like letting Jesus be born again in our lives. But that time of the year is gone and we look on.

It is fitting now that we study some of the things which happened just after the birth of Jesus. We see different faces around the cradle. Various things were done after people had visited the cradle.

Around the birth of Jesus we see the face of Herod. It is an unkindly face. He pretended that he wanted to worship Christ but in fact wanted to kill Him. Why did he want to kill the Christ? Because it seemed that Jesus was to be his rival. Some people are willing to go to any depth of sin to save their own position or place. I can conceive of no sin more corrupt - coming from a more ugly source than to pretend to be religious in order to get personal gain, honor, and position.

This happened with Herod because he was a human being yielded to Satan. That was an ugly way to travel from the birth time of Jesus.

Around this birth we also see the shepherds who after seeing Jesus went their way rejoicing and spreading the news. Their path from the manger was not one filled with murder - that black kind of murder - murdering of babies. Little babies crying and mothers weeping because of the pain Herod chose. But shepherds saw more beauty in the gray hills and the high heavens which a little while before had opened to them.

They represent a type of people who after seeing Jesus went forth with His kind of joy in their lives. I am sure that every body they met talked about their wonderful experience. They did not kill a single baby nor

2. Back home another way.

make a mother weep because her child was not with them childhood was exalted.

The father and mother heard the voice of God in a dream concerning the protection of the child and obeyed the voice. The advice was to get up and go away from the danger zone. They obeyed. There are danger zones all around us to-day and wherever we go we find them or it is up to us to have our homes as softy zones into which we may draw our children and teach them counter attraction. They obeyed the voice of God and reared the child. We at some times met with the wail "we do not know how to rear our child" It is a problem but in earnest prayer God will guide you. They Him and all will be well in the end.

Now the wise men saw Jesus and being warned in a dream not to return to Herod returned to their country another way. This verse impresses me. When they had seen Jesus they went home another way. They did not go back home by way of the enemy of Jesus. But another way. In other words at the cradle decisions were made. Many decisions are made when the little one comes into the home. Parents who have been indifferent pledge better lives. Many decisions are made when the cradle is robbed of its treasure.

These men returned home another way. This fact is still true that when men visit Jesus they return to their homes another way. They may have been leaving their places of business and going the far way home - around by the enemy of Jesus - the corrupt place but meeting Jesus they return home another way.

☰ During the new year, after having visited the cradle of the King, let us turn from any evil way we have traveled and walk the more excellent way - even the WAY Christ Jesus.

If we will do this joy will radiate from our lives and no one will be made to weep because of us. They returned to their homes another way.