

“CO-OPERating With God”

Based on Matthew 2:13-16, 19-21 (NIV)

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

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Matthew 2:13 - When they (the Magi) had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

† Throughout the history of Israel, Jewish people sought refuge in Egypt.

† In every city in Egypt there was a colony of Jews.

† To flee was not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength.

† The strength of conviction in Joseph listening to God.

Matthew 2:14 - So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt,

† God guided Joseph to save the child Jesus and it was up to Joseph to act on God's guidance.

† God guides me in what I am to do but it is up to me to act on God's guidance.

Matthew 2:19-21

19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt

20 and said, "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."

21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

† God's concern, God's compassion, and God's aid comes to those who listen to God and cooperate.

† Life is a cooperative effort between God and me.

† I am part of a Christian CO-OP and I am to cooperate with God.

† God uses others to help me in my life.

† I am to CO-OPERate with God: God guides me to do what is right, then, God needs my action for Him in this world.

Applying Today's Message to My Life:

† When have I wanted to do things my way instead of God's way?

† Who do I know that CO-OPperated with God for my benefit?

- What was the situation?

† When have I CO-OPERated with God in my life?

- To help another?

† How is God guiding me today to get out of a predicament in my life?