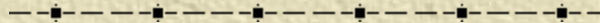


*A Nazarene? I Thought
Jesus was Jewish.*

Matthew 2:19-23



Where are you from?

✦ Does it matter?

✦ Preconceived Notions

✦ Danbury, CT vs. Meriden, CT

✦ We shouldn't lump people in with their city or section's reputation

✦ We think more highly of ourselves than we ought

✦ Where Jesus lived was a lesson on how the Messiah would be and is treated.

Obedient Parents

Matthew 2:19-21

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

Obedient Parents

✦ Again Jesus fulfills what Israel failed to do and was pointed to in the life of Moses

✦ Joseph is Obedient

– Never questions

- “No way, my child is too important”

– Never argues

– Mary gets a lot of play in sermons

- She was not perfect

– Both Joseph and Mary were submissive and obedient to God

✦ But why did they move to Nazareth?

The Despised Branch

Matthew 2:22-23

²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

The Despised Branch

✦ Archelaus

- Herod the Great dies in 4 BC and gives the main portion of the kingdom to Archelaus
- In 6 AD he is banished to Gaul because of too many complaints, from Antipas and the Jews, of his cruelty

✦ Why Nazareth?

- Which prophets?
- Two Main Views

The Despised Branch

✦ View 1: The Branch

- Nazareth and the word branch in Hebrew (Neser) come from the same root.
- Branch is important designation for the Messiah
- *ESV Isaiah 11:1* "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit."
- This is word play which happens very often

✦ View 2: Despised

- John 7:42, 52 Nazareth is despised
 - John 1:46 – Nathanael says “can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

The Despised Branch

✦ D.A. Carson:

Here Jesus grew up, not as "Jesus the Bethlehemite," with its Davidic overtones, but as "Jesus the Nazarene," with all the opprobrium of the sneer. When Christians were referred to in Acts as the "Nazarene sect" (24:5), the expression was meant to hurt. First-century Christian readers of Matthew, who had tasted their share of scorn, would have quickly caught Matthew's point. He is not saying that a particular OT prophet foretold that the Messiah would live in Nazareth; he is saying that the OT prophets foretold that the Messiah would be despised (cf. Pss 22:6-8, 13; 69:8, 20-21; Isa 11:1; 49:7; 53:2-3, 8; Dan 9:26). The theme is repeatedly picked up by Matthew (e.g., 8:20; 11:16-19; 15:7-8). In other words Matthew gives us the substance of several OT passages, not a direct quotation".

The Despised Branch

- ✦ Matthew is foreshadowing for us
- ✦ Jesus resides in Nazareth to so that the Messiah would not be accepted with open arms, but will be despised, mocked and shamed
- ✦ Much like a flatlander in Maine.
 - Very little hunting skill and pronounces his “R’s”
- ✦ Jesus came to meet a need that no one wants to admit they have
- ✦ He was despised, we must be ready to be despised as well
- ✦ We follow Jesus the Nazarene, but we do so with hope because He will one day make everything right.