

LOOKING BACK, PLANNING AHEAD

New Years 2010

– Matthew 2:13-23 –

LOOKING BACK

1. **Escape to Egypt** (vss. 13-15)

2. **Massacre in Bethlehem** (vss. 16-18)

3. **Return to Nazareth** (vss. 19-23)

PLANNING AHEAD

1. **Exhibit** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Expect** \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Embrace** \_\_\_\_\_

Application Questions. . .

1. What especially spoke to you in this message?
2. What is Matthew's point in emphasizing God's watchfulness over Jesus?
3. How would you describe Herod's basic *mindset* or *attitude* in life?
4. How would you describe Joseph's basic *mindset* or *attitude* in life?
5. From Joseph's responsiveness, what do you learn about faith and obedience?
6. It's been said that "the human heart resists nothing more than change." What truths in this passage – truths that could require some changes in your life – cause some degree of hesitation and resistance inside you?
7. If someone were to tell you that God promises a trouble-free life to those who are true Christians, how would you respond? What are you struggling with most right now?
8. How do you deal with change? Moves? Job transfers? Transitions from one stage of your life to another? How has pain helped you grow?