

## ADVENT SERIES

**Topic: *Purpose Protected Me!***

Scripture: Matthew 2:1–15 (Focus on vv.13–15)

### 1. Introduction: The Tension of Purpose

We live in a century obsessed with *purpose* but confused about what it truly means. Purpose is posted, branded, marketed, and performed, yet beneath the surface is a generation asking:

- *Who am I?*
- *Why am I here?*
- *What if I'm unseen, unqualified, or too late?*
- *Can my past disqualify my future?*

We talk about purpose constantly... but understand it rarely.

Our culture has turned:

- **Purpose into performance**
- **Identity into comparison**
- **Calling into competition**

But Scripture teaches a different story: **Purpose is not born from perfection; Purpose is born from redemption.**

And nowhere is that clearer than in how the New Testament begins.

### 2. Why Matthew? A Portrait of Redemption

Before we see Jesus in a manger, God chooses **Matthew** to hold the pen.

Matthew was:

- A tax collector
- Partner of Rome
- Traitor to Israel
- Barred from synagogue & temple
- Despised by religious leaders

Yet Jesus walks up to him and says: **“Follow Me.”**  
*Not fix yourself, not prove yourself, just follow.*

And then Jesus entrusts Matthew to write the genealogy, the prophecies, the opening Gospel.

### Matthew's calling reveals:

- God's choices offend human expectations.
- God calls those we would disqualify.
- Purpose begins where Jesus interrupts your past and says: **"I can use that."**

If Jesus could choose Matthew—**He can choose you.**

### 3. Scene Shift: A Political Earthquake (Matthew 2:1–3)

The wise men arrive in Jerusalem asking:

**"Where is the one BORN King of the Jews?"**

This was not a peaceful Christmas moment, it was a direct threat to Herod's throne.

Herod is **troubled**—agitated, shaken, internally destabilized—because true purpose always exposes false positioning.

Herod was:

- Appointed by Rome, not God
- From no royal line
- Positioned, but **not purposed**

Jesus, however, was **born** King.

No palace. No crown. No performance.

Yet His identity was already established.

### Key Principle:

**The enemy fears who you are before he fears what you do.**

Purpose is assigned *before* it is fulfilled.

### 4. The Wise Men Warned (Matthew 2:7–12)

Herod pretends he wants to worship.

He really wants to kill.

*Not everyone who asks about your journey is invested in your well-being.*

Some simply want access.

But God intervenes:

- The wise men are warned in a dream.
- They return home another way.

God is already protecting purpose.

## **5. The Instruction to Egypt (Matthew 2:13–15)**

The angel tells Joseph: **“Take the child to Egypt...until Herod is dead.”**

To us, this seems simple.

But for Israel, Egypt meant:

- Slavery
- Bondage
- Trauma
- Genocide
- Generational wounds

Yet God sends Jesus **into the very place that once oppressed His people.**

### **Tension Question:**

Why would God hide His Son in a place historically associated with pain?

### **Revelation:**

**“When you are purposed... I know how to hide you.”**

Sometimes purpose looks like:

- Hiding
- Obscurity
- Being tucked away
- Being unseen
- Being protected

God will hide you **even in places that once hurt you.**

Egypt became:

- Israel’s trauma → Jesus’ shelter
- Israel’s oppression → Jesus’ protection
- Israel’s pain → Jesus’ preservation

**Your past pain cannot cancel your present purpose.**

## **6. Purpose Will Protect You**

God hid Jesus until:

- the threat lifted,
- Herod died,
- and the timing was right.

And God does the same with you.

### **Prophetic Affirmation:**

- You will not die in your Egypt.
- You will not repeat generational trauma.
- You are hidden, covered, and kept.
- Purpose is preserving you until the appointed time.

Because...

**It's been 12 months and you should have died...  
but purpose protected you.**

**Depression should have swallowed you whole...  
but purpose protected you.**

**The death in your family should have shattered you...  
but purpose protected you.**

**The betrayal should've broken you,  
the setback should've stopped you,  
the storm should've silenced you...  
but purpose protected you.**

You're still here  
—still breathing,  
—still standing,  
—still becoming,

because **destiny would not let you go.**

### **7. Key Takeaways**

- ✓ **Purpose is rooted in redemption, not perfection.**
- ✓ **God calls the unlikely, the overlooked, and the unqualified.**
- ✓ **Divine purpose exposes false positioning.**
- ✓ **The enemy attacks identity before assignment.**

✓ **God hides you to preserve you.**

✓ **Your past pain can become your present protection.**

✓ **Purpose is stronger than opposition.**

## **8. Reflection Questions**

1. Where do you feel “unqualified” that God may be calling you?
2. What “Egypt” season might God be using to hide and protect you right now?
3. Who or what in your life represents a “Herod”—something threatened by your purpose?
4. How has God preserved you in ways you didn’t recognize until now?

## **9. Closing Declaration**

**I am purposed.**

**I am protected.**

**I am hidden until the appointed time.**

**No Herod can take what God has ordained.**

**And purpose—God’s purpose—will protect me.**