

Video clip from the movie *Sheffey*: He gives away his horse.

Sometimes God's provision and deliverance is not how we think it should be.

Here in Matthew 2:

- How God protects His son, Jesus Christ
- But not how we would have thought.
- Because the main character, Joseph, we find out what it cost him...
- And it required a great deal of faith and character on Joseph's part.

Couldn't God protect Jesus rather easily?



I want you to see from this passage:

Several principles I think we can apply to our lives about God's protection, provision, direction and deliverance.

- I. God requires obedience (vs.13-15)
 - A. Dreams (3 of them) God's direction at that time.
This dream: "to flee" [present imperative]
 - B. It cost him – travel: with 6 mo. old, to the border 75 miles, left at night (v.14), probably to a safe city 100 miles even further!
Why didn't God protect them easier... no miracle?
- And there in Egypt only a few months...
- II. God promises protection & provision when we're obedient.
 - A. Problem of Herod
 - B. Herod's death (19)
 - III. God promises deliverance (19-23)
 - A. Return to the land of blessing
 - B. God's blessing in spite of a wicked city (v.23)
Why would God have His son come from this city?

The Messiah comes from *this* wicked city, noted for crude & violence Nazareth? Troubling?

Understand that:

God's blessing, God's direction, God's deliverance, God's protection;
Has **nothing** to do...

With your surroundings, circumstances,

Your personality, Your race,

Your abilities or talents!

It has **everything** to do with your obedience!!!

How is God going to work out *your* situation?

Miracle or Obedience?

Sometimes we need to ask not for a miracle;

We just need to obey.

Robert Sheffey said: *The horse was already provided; there was no need to pray!*

Conclusion:

- Aren't you thankful for God's provision, protection and direction?
- God protects His son, and Mary & Joseph.
- But not from everything!
- Isaiah 53 says:

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely, He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth:

This does not seem to be the easiest way for God to redeem us?