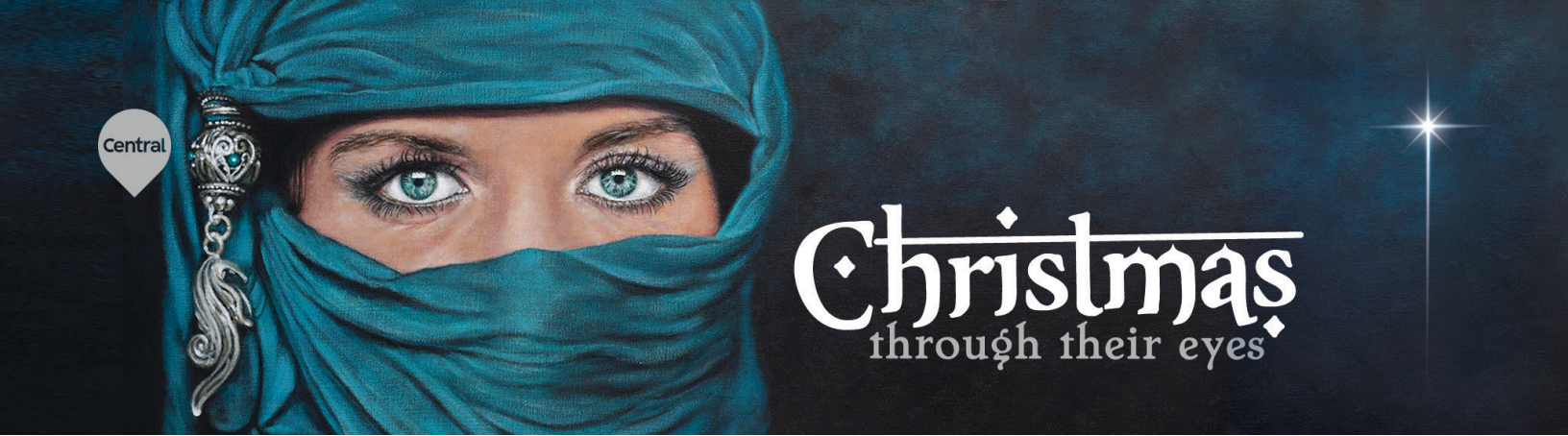




Christmas

through their eyes

12.16.18 • CRAIG REES • TAKING THE WIDE VIEW

BOTTOM LINE

The real royal family was saved through flight, not miracle. Running is sometimes good for you.

KEY VERSES

Matthew 2:13-23

Matthew 10:16

Matthew 24:16-20

Matthew 27:9-10

Genesis 43:6-8

Jeremiah 31:15-17

Jeremiah 31:31-34

2 Corinthians 12:9

2 Timothy 2:22

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your major takeaway from the message this morning?
2. “The things that Jesus did and that happened to him were predetermined components of an agelong design of God.” Can you think of events in your life that, looking back, you’d consider to be part of the agelong design of God for your life? What led you to that conclusion?
3. The relation of God to evil is a complex subject. That said, how does the idea of Matthew being reluctant to ascribe evil directly to God’s purposes strike you?
4. Can you think of a time in your life when you had to ‘flee’ a challenging situation, only to see the hand of God in it later? What does it mean to you that God might save you through flight rather than miracle?
5. Pastor Craig talked a lot about Jesus’ life being foreshadowed by the experience of Israel. If we spent more time in Matthew we’d see that the experience of Jesus would become the experience of the disciples too. Matthew 10:16 is a great example. Everything Jesus prophesies that will happen to the disciples happens to him in the rest of the story. Have you ever considered that your life could be an example of Jesus’ life? With that in mind, how has your life been an example of the experience of Jesus?
6. “In the Bible, Bethlehem is a place of death but through the death of God’s Son, the place of death would become known as the place of life.” In what areas of your life have you experienced ‘death’ only to discover hope and life growing in you?
7. “In our battle against sin, we must realize that not every day, is going to be our greatest day. On some days, the best we can do is live to fight another day.” What areas of your life are you most vulnerable to temptation? Honestly examine your life and find a friend with whom you can share your answer. Commit to stand firm together and flee from sin when necessary.
8. Spend time in prayer thanking God that his power is made perfect in weakness. In what areas of your life have you experienced God’s power at work in you? Thank God for His prevailing power.