

HE SHALL BE CALLED A NAZARENE

Isaiah 52:7-53:12; Matthew 2:1-23

I. IRONY AND MATTHEW 2

A. Examples of irony

- ✓ A fire station burning down.
- ✓ A police station being robbed.
- ✓ Surviving Niagara Falls only to die after slipping on a banana peel!
- ✓ Moses saved by Pharaoh's daughter.
- ✓ David and Nathan (2 Samuel 12:5)
- ✓ The power of the cross (Romans 1).
- ✓ The foolishness of God (1 Corinthians 1-2).

B. Irony in Matthew 2

1. Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Nazareth
2. Herod "the king" and Jesus, the Child "born King"
3. Foreigners coming to worship a foreign king.
4. Jewish Ignorance versus Gentile Wisdom
5. The excitement of the Magi and the indifference (?) of the Jews.
6. Worship and crucifixion, "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS."
7. King of Israel and "We have no king but Caesar!"
8. The one born to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) and the taunt of the Jews (Matthew 27:42).
9. Deliverance in Egypt!

II. HE SHALL BE CALLED A NAZARENE (Matthew 2:23; 4:13; 21:11; 26:71; Mark 1:9,24; 10:47; 14:67; 16:6; Luke 1:26; 2:4,39,51; 4:16,34; 18:37; 24:19; John 1:45,46; 18:5,7; 19:19; Acts 2:22; 3:6; 4:10; 6:14; 10:38; 22:8; 24:5; 26:9)

A. Matthew 1 and 2 both end on similar notes:

Matthew 1:22-23

Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

Matthew 2:23

and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

- B. "Nazarene" sounds like the Hebrew word *nezer*, which means Branch (Isa.11:1-2; Jer.23:5-6). "He shall be called a Nazarene" is a reference to Christ's being the son of David (Matthew 1:1; 9:27-28; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9,15; 22:42-44).

RECOLLECTION FROM REVELATION

"...Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, **the Root of David**, has overcome..." (Revelation 5:5; cf. Isa.4:2; 11:1,10; Jer.23:5; 30:9,21; 33:15; Zech.3:8; 6:12; Mt.1:1,6; Luke 1:78; John 7:42; Rom.15:12; Heb.7:14; Rev.22:16; etc.). "Root of David" in Revelation 5:5 is related to the Messianic words "shoot" and "**branch**" (Isa.11:1,10; Rom.15:12). Root literally refers to lineage (see Matthew 1).

(OVER **Z**)

C. “Nazarene” was a term of contempt.

1. “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” (John 1:44-46 with 19:19)
2. Paul is accused of being a “real pest and a fellow who stirs up dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes” (24:5).
3. Matthew’s reference to the prophets is a reference to the contempt that people would show to God’s Son (Isaiah 53:3,8-9).

D. Nazarene very likely intimates the holiness of Jesus.

What Old Testament vow sounds like the word for “Nazarene”?

1. The purpose of the _____ vow was “Holiness to the LORD” (Numbers 6:8).
2. Jesus had to be holy if He was going to save His people from their sins.

E. Parallels between the Nazirite Vow and the High Priest.

1. The status of both & High Priest was, “Holy to the LORD” (Num.6:8; Lev.21:7).
2. The heads of both the Nazirite and the High Priest were dedicated to God (Numbers 6:2,3 with Ex.28:36-38; see esp. Judges 16:17).
3. Neither Nazirite nor the High Priest were allowed to touch a corpse (Numbers 6:6-7 with Lev.21:11-12).
4. Both Nazirite and High Priest had to abstain from wine. The Nazirite abstained during the time of his vow (Num.6:3-4) and the High Priest was not allowed to drink wine when he ministered in the tabernacle or temple (Lev.10:8).
5. The person who took the Nazirite vow had to live all the time as if he or she were a high priest ministering in the temple.
6. In the fullest sense of the word, Jesus was a “Nazarene.” He was holy to the LORD. Everywhere He walked was literally a temple (Matthew 12:6; cf. John 2:19-22)
7. Jesus was a Nazarene for the purpose of receiving in His body the penalty for our rebellion (1 Peter 2:22-24).

John 1:11-13

11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer for yourself. Have you trusted in Jesus to save you from your sins? Has Jesus delivered you from a sinful lifestyle? Are you living the life of a disciple by following the Nazarene? Commit yourself in prayer to all of these things.

What is irony?

What are some of the ironies of Matthew 2?

What was the name of the town where Jesus grew up?

What is the meaning of, “He shall be called a Nazarene?”

