



Advent 2006  
**The Dreams of Christmas**

**Part Three: Following Far Away**  
Matthew 2:13-18

**Advent Review**

Following in the Dark: *Holding our Expectations Suspect*

Following in the Rough: *The outsider showing the insider how to follow God*

Following Far Away: *Finding Hope in Life's Detours*

**Matthew's Craft**

Expectations in the air: John 1:19-21;7:40,41

Emphatic portrayal of Jesus as the key to Israel's story

Davidic Messiah: 2 Samuel 7:16; Christ: Isaiah 61:1

The New Moses: "A prophet like me": Deuteronomy 18:15,18

Fulfillment /embodiment of Israel: virgin birth, Bethlehem, Egypt, Ramah, Nazarene

Understand Jesus, and all the rest of the story will fall into place

Reading the Old Testament *Christocentrically*

**The Dream and the Detour**

Evil reacts when God comes near (running, attacking)

Light and dark: Ephesians 5:13,14;

Note God's Self-restraint as evil unleashes itself against Him

God uses detours to declare His sovereignty! (redemption!)

Jesus' detour to Egypt bolsters His identity while Herod sought to erase it

As Jesus the fugitive embodies the story of Israel, He embodies our story as well

The Detours of Jesus: Manger, Egypt, Nazareth, hometown rejection,  
close friend betrayal, opposition of leaders, mock trial and crucifixion

**Hope**

Immanuel: God with us all along the way

Detours never need be a waste of time

Becoming versus arriving

Staying the light that is staying with us: 2 Cor 3:18