



## Midweek Meditation



*“And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.” Matthew 2:12*

It was the law in the ancient Greek city of Amyclae to hold one's tongue. The Amyclaeans had often panicked when they heard rumors that the powerful Spartan army was coming, so to put an end to defeatism, a law was passed forbidding such rumors. Violators were to be executed. When the Spartans actually did appear, no one had the courage to warn the citizens, and the city was overcome without a fight.

God's Word is filled with warnings. In Matthew 2, three such warnings are given. The Wise Men are warned to avoid Herod on their way home. Joseph is warned in a dream to flee to Egypt with the child and His mother. And on their return, he is warned, again in a dream, to avoid Herod's son, Archelaus. These warnings come from the merciful heart of God. He is preserving our Lord until the day when He is to be offered up on the cross for our salvation.

Few today heed the warnings that God gives in Scripture. A foe much more powerful than Herod or the Spartans is against us. For those who refuse to be warned, the devil is able to overcome without a fight. God warns us to stay in His Word; to hear it faithfully, read it, study it, meditate on it. These warnings come from God's merciful heart. He knows the foe who is after us. But His Word is the weapon we are given to overcome the devil. How much better for us to be as the Wise Men and Joseph, heeding God's warnings, than like the Amyclaeans.

*Your warnings, O Lord, are meant for my good; yes, for my salvation. Let me not avoid Your warnings, but take them to heart so that what Jesus did for me is not in vain. Amen.*