

Flipping Tables Podcast



Study of Philippians

*The house church at Philippi
and beyond
with the women who led there.*

"Grace and peace to you from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

Table 2

Season 4 Episode 5

Merry Christmas! We're just 5 days away from celebrating the birth of our Savior. If you're anything like me, certain words always seem to fill your mind this time of year—words like peace, hope, and joy. When you think about everything Jesus has done for us, those words just make sense. In Christ, we've been given a gift greater than any other. Nothing else even comes close.

This week on the podcast, Twila and I dive into Matthew 2 to talk about what happened after the Magi left. When I read [Matthew 2:13-23](#), the words that pop into my mind aren't the usual Christmas ones. Instead of peace and joy, I think of panic, urgency, grief, refugee, and shame. These are pretty heavy topics for a Christmas episode. About 10 minutes in, I even mention that I'm afraid some listeners might tune out. It's not light and fluffy content—but it is real and honest. At this table, we don't shy away from or skip over the parts of the narrative that make us feel uncomfortable. It's part of what makes us followers of the Table Flipper. I hope you'll give the episode a listen. Even though the topic is heavy, it really helps you appreciate what this family—and Jesus—went through for us. Jesus is relatable to everyone—including me and you. Listen: [Apple](#) or [Spotify](#).

The Escape to Egypt

This is Joseph's second dream, and honestly, it makes my anxiety spike. It seems like the moment the Magi caravan left Bethlehem, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream with an urgent message: "Get up and escape to Egypt!"

Where's the usual "*Do not be afraid*" angel tagline? This time, it's missing. Why?

Just speculating, but maybe it's because the threat was very real. Herod the Great was one of the most paranoid kings in history. He viewed the child Jesus as a direct threat to his throne.

When a paranoid king is sending his henchmen to hunt for the child in order to kill Him, it's definitely time to flee!

The escape to Egypt was no accident—it was the fulfillment of prophecy. "*Out of Egypt I called my son*" (Hosea 11:1).

It was also a powerful reversal of Israel's story. Where Israel once journeyed out of Egypt toward the promised land, Jesus journeyed into Egypt—not as a conqueror, but as a child fleeing danger.

Jesus lived in Egypt as a refugee.

That reality resonates deeply today. By the end of June 2025, the UN Refugee Agency reports that more than 117 million people worldwide have been forcibly displaced because of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations.

That includes:

- 42.5 million refugees
- 67.8 million internally displaced people
- 6.9 million asylum seekers

5.8 million people in need of international protection

In other words, **1 in every 67 people on earth has been forced to flee their home.**

This is not just a global crisis—it's a story Jesus entered Himself.

This global crisis must cause us to pause—and ask ourselves some important questions. Here's one to get you started.

How does knowing that Jesus began His life as a refugee shape the way I see and respond to displaced and vulnerable people today?

Herod's order to murder the toddlers of Bethlehem is horrifying. It is one of the darkest moments in the Christmas story—and one we often want to move past as quickly as possible.

But there is wisdom in slowing down.

This brutality reminds us that Jesus was born into a world of real violence, real fear, and real suffering. Christmas does not ignore the darkness; it enters it. And in doing so, it tells us that God is not distant from human pain—He meets us in the middle of it.

“It's the most wonderful time of the year.”

We say it every December—but is it really?

Does Christmas stir only joy, awe, and wonder within you?

Or does it also awaken grief, loss, and pain?

If your answer is *both*, then Matthew 2 is for us.

We need Christmas because we live in a broken world—a world I like to call *“It's not supposed to be this way.”* Years ago, I stumbled across a blog titled **Merry Broken Christmas**, and it stopped me in my tracks. That was the year I decided to stop pretending. I was tired of putting on a happy face and repeating the familiar lines: *“It's the most wonderful time of the year. Merry Christmas.”*

Instead, I learned to say something more honest:

“Merry Broken Christmas.”

And in that honesty, I discovered the true wonder of Christmas.

The awe that makes this season truly wonderful isn't found in perfection—it's found in **hope**. Hope lying in a manger. Hope resting on the floor of a Bethlehem home. Hope fleeing to Egypt. Hope growing quietly in Nazareth.

This is the hope we need.

And this is why Christmas still matters—especially in a broken world.

What might it look like for me to offer hope—however small—to someone living in their own version of “It’s not supposed to be this way”?

Friends, I hope you have a Merry Christmas. No matter what is happening in your life right now—whether joy feels full or fragile—Jesus is near. He knows what it is to enter a broken world, to face fear, loss, and uncertainty, and He meets us there. You are not alone, and He understands more deeply than we often realize.

Grace and peace to you this Christmas.

Julie