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### Henry Ossawa Tanner: Week #1

This week we watched Henry Ossawa Tanner's Artwork, and I would say I really enjoyed them all. I found his work to be very inspiring as well the video narratives really helped me to elevate my perception of what I was looking at. Tanner's Artwork gives me the desire to look deeper and really analyze the portrait he is bringing to life. It is evident Tanner has a gift from the Lord to bring scripture to life in a way that brings the viewer in closer and almost makes you feel as if you were there experiencing that very moment with the persons, he chose to paint. I also appreciate how his art looks like actual photos from that time in the New Testament.

The location settings and pictorials are taking place in the Holy land, and though some of us have not been able to visit the Holy land, we have these depictions to help us have a visual. We also see how they might have been thinking, feeling and experiencing at that very moment. Tanner's work tends to bring in not just the physical but also the spiritual dynamic of the situation.

This week I chose to focus in on the portrait The Flight into Egypt 1923. I am drawn in by Tanner's expression between light and darkness. We see that Tanner starts with the backdrop landscape of Bethlehem where Joseph, Mary and Jesus are traveling on a donkey and foot. In this portrait there is a guide in front of them and the shadows lurking somewhat behind them but very close. They are traveling in the night hours when most are asleep, but I believe this can be the time of day when God knew it was safest without onlookers and those who could trace them.

We see in this pictorial the spiritual dynamic between light and darkness. The light is always present leading, and the darkness is always lurking. We also know that Jesus is born our savior at this time and was very much always protected by God.

The guide is holding a lamp on his right hand, we see throughout scripture that the right hand is of high honor. Our Lord is at our right hand. The light bearer. As well there is scripture that refers to us keeping our lamps always lit. I believe this is also symbolic of our savior Jesus Christ, who is an infant, being held by his mother watched over by His father God and earthly father Joseph.

Lastly, the way Tanner decides to paint with a modern method and oil paints allows the lamp to stand out, this could be ironic since baby Jesus is also in the painting. We come to see how God's light always outshines the darkness, and we can absolutely identify this with the entire painting having a lower tone of colors, such as blue, brown, and grays. Yet the lamp the guide is holding stands out from the entire painting, somewhat like the moon shining down from the sky in the evenings. Tanner's painting are those that draw you in and leave you wanting more, very spiritually inspiring.