

12-4-16 Message
What the Gifts of Christmas Past Mean for the Present
Matthew 2:1-12

Giving Sacrificially

●How extravagant were the gifts of the Magi?

1. G_____ - ratio to the earth's crust is one part per million. VERY RARE.
2. F_____ - derived from a certain tree found only in certain tropical areas of Africa and Asia used as a fragrance in perfumes and gums. VERY EXPENSIVE.
3. M_____ - derived from the s_____ of certain trees in Arabia, Ethiopia, and Eastern Africa, used as a burial spice. EXPENSIVE.

●What did the Magi gain from baby Jesus by giving these gifts?

1. Jesus was incapable of saying t_____
2. They got n_____ from Mary or Joseph (except maybe a thank you).
3. Their giving was a total sacrifice!

●Christmas present

1. Christmas gifts are often ex_____ (we give to others and others give to us)
2. How can we give to Jesus?
 - a. Giving to spread His m_____
 - b. Giving to meet the n_____ of believers (Matt 25:40)
 - 1) Giving of our t_____
 - 2) Giving of our t_____
 - 3) Giving of our t_____

Giving Worshipfully

●The identity of the Magi

1. They were from the E_____ and so were not Jews
 - a. Their knowledge of the birth of the Jews' king d_____ all of the Jews.
 - b. Their knowledge of a s_____ that was unknown to the Jews and was not in the Scripture.
2. They were religious rulers from the area of P_____
 - a. Daniel, a Jewish exile, was called c_____ of the Magi (Dan 1:4-6; 2:46-49)
 - b. Speculation - Daniel prophesied of the star to the magi under him and it was preserved in oral tradition for over 500 years.
3. They were b_____ in the one true God and understood the king to be God in the flesh (they worshipped him)

●What is worship?

1. It is more than just knowing who God is – the d_____ knows who God is.
2. It involves our h_____
 - a. G_____ the Lord our heart
 - b. S_____ totally to the Lord
3. It is not just word or deed but the heart a_____ behind them (e.g. Lk 21:1-4)

●Don't make giving to Jesus a c_____ (allowing things to compete such as money, possessions, relationships). Start with worship, putting everything under Jesus's kingship.

Commitment: Jesus does not NEED our love, He WANTS it. That is our gift to Him. Put everything under His Lordship – money, possessions, relationships, service.