

What Gifts Will You Bring?

- *Matthew 2:1-11*

- **Christmas is without a doubt one of the most exciting & happy times for many people throughout the world today.**
 - It's a time of get-togethers.
 - It's a time of food & parties.
 - It's a time where kids get a break from school & parents take some time off from work.
 - It's a time that is spent around family & friends.
 - And it is the biggest time of spending throughout the entire year.
 - In 2013, Americans spent over \$602 billion dollars during the Christmas season.
 - That averages out to around \$800 per consumer.
 - There will be over \$20 billion spent on trees this Christmas.
 - And the average consumer will spend a whopping \$29 on Christmas cards.
- **Yet with all of the parties & events & especially gift buying, the focus has turned from a season of giving to one of receiving & many homes have lost the meaning of what Christmas really means.**
- **As we go back to a portion of the Christmas story this morning, I want you to look with me at the events surrounding the birth of the Lord Jesus, but I would like for us to focus especially on the gifts that were brought to the Son of God.**
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- **Every time I read the Christmas story, I am reminded that there was nothing usual or common about the birth of our Lord & Savior.**
 - Practically every event was unusual, or to say the least uncommon.
 - He was God's own Son.
 - He was virgin born.
 - His birth was announced by the angels.
 - And no one had any room for the Christ-child & so He was born in a manger.
 - But in all that, God had a plan! God would take these unexpected events & work them out for the good to all those that will believe on Him.
- **There are many things that are fascinating in the events leading up to & the actual event of our Lord's birth. But this morning, as we look at Matthew 2, I want to pay careful attention to the gifts that the wise men gave & I want you to ask yourself this question today, "What gifts will I bring to Christ?"**
 - For me, buying gifts for someone is a very difficult thing to do ... unless you know specifically what they want!
 - Do you have difficulty finding just the right gift for just the right person? Have you ever thought about the gift that you may give to the Lord Jesus this Christmas season? I think we can take a lesson from the wise men.

1. Gold

- Gold is not a typical gift that is given for just any occasion or for just any birth. But when presenting a gift to a King, you would want to give of the very best that you have.
 - Gold was the most precious metal of that day, as it is today.
 - In Bible times, and even today, gold is also a symbol of royalty.
- So when these wise men came to the Lord Jesus Christ and presented to Him gold, they recognized Him as being the King.

- No doubt they had heard Daniel’s prophecy, that the Messiah would come & these men recognized Jesus Christ as King & as King, He would have dominion over them.
- Now I am glad that they saw Him as King & their gift was worthy of a King, but I was also reminded that what these men or any man may think of Jesus does not change the fact that He is King of Kings & Lord of Lords.
 - Some will say, “Well that’s what Jesus is to you.” No sir, not at all. Christ is not King of Kings b/c of me or my thinking. He is King of Kings & Lord of Lords b/c He is the Great I Am
 - He is Alpha & Omega, the Beginning & the End.
 - He is the First & the Last.
 - He is the Lily of the Valley.
 - He is the Bright & Morning Star.
 - He is the Fairest of Ten Thousand.
 - And He is my Savior!
 - And one day, EVERY knee will bow & EVERY tongue will confess Him as Lord!
- Now the questions comes, this Christmas, will you humbly offer to the Lord all that is due to Him because He is your King?
- I think it is important to note that when these kings came to the baby Jesus, they did not come to hold Him or to play with Him. These powerful kings from the East, bowed the knee in obeisance to Him and they recognized that indeed He is King.
 - We serve a Might King this morning, AMEN? These wise men humbly brought to Christ the gift of gold b/c they recognized Him as the King.
 - Is Jesus King of your life today? Have you given your all to Him? Not just your sins, not just your past, but have you given Him your present & your future as well?
- Illustration of President
 - If you knew that the President would be coming to your home today, what changes would you have to make in order to receive Him?
 - We would have to clean up, do some painting & fixing up, trim the bushes, go out & buy new clothes, we might have to cancel some appointments & set aside some time to prepare for his coming, right?
 - Yet Jesus comes knocking today & I wonder what we will set aside for Him. How much time have you set aside for the King of Kings this week? How much time have we made to spend with the One who gave His life a ransom for all?
- I am afraid many today are more impressed with the famous people of today than they are with Heaven’s King.

2. Frankincense

- The frankincense represents His sinless deity. Frankincense was used to worship Almighty God in the temple.
 - Exodus 30:34-38 – “And the LORD said unto Moses, Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum; these sweet spices with pure frankincense: of each shall there be a like weight: And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after the art of the apothecary, tempered together, pure and holy: And thou shalt beat some of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall be unto you most holy. And as for the perfume which thou shalt make, ye shall not make to yourselves according to the composition

thereof: it shall be unto thee holy for the LORD. Whosoever shall make like unto that, to smell thereto, shall even be cut off from his people.”

- Frankincense was the base of this holy incense that would burn in the tabernacle for the most holy. It was to be given to God.
- What did these wise men recognize? They brought gold, and they recognized Him as being King. And then they brought frankincense. They recognized His sinless deity. They worshipped Him as the Son of God.
 - Matthew 2:11 – “And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him:
- What could we possibly give to the Lord that would honor Him as King of our lives? How about our humble worship?
 - I told you last week, there are hundreds of thousands of people who go to church each week, but how many of them bring their worship with them?
- There's never been another like the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no One who has ever done as much or could do as much, than Christ has done for us.
 - To think that He would leave Heaven's throne to be born in manger, in a time where no one had any room for Him even then.
 - He gave of His earthly life to minister to others & share with them the love of God, not to gain notoriety or fame, but to serve others.
 - While here on this earth, He lived a sinless & perfect life. Think about that!
 - Every thought, was of God.
 - Every action, honored Him.
 - Every move He made was in complete devotion to His Heavenly Father.
 - And even when He was tempted by Satan himself, the Bible tells us that He didn't even sin then.
 - He never had to ask anyone to ever forgive Him. Do you know why? He never needed to b/c He never messed up.
 - Though He was perfect & sinless, He was still meek and mild.
- The Kings brought the Christ child frankincense as a token to acknowledge that He was indeed God in the flesh.

3. Myrrh

- This was perhaps the strangest of the gifts that was given to Jesus Christ.
- Myrrh was also a gum-like substance that was very valuable. But it was mostly used to embalm the dead.
 - Can you imagine bringing to a little baby, something that would be used to embalm the dead? Why, because not only did they recognize His sovereign dominion, not only did they recognize His sinless deity, but they recognized His sacrificial death. They recognized that this little baby was born to die.
- Myrrh is used a couple times throughout the scriptures. Let me give you a few.
 - Mark 15:22-23 – “And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull. And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.”
 - Most historians will tell you that Myrrh was used as a narcotic, to dull pain. But Jesus refused the taste of myrrh as He bore the cross for our sins.
 - In John 19:38-39, Joseph asked for the body of Jesus & the Bible tells us that as he was preparing the body for burial, Nicodemus came with myrrh and spices to anoint His body.

- I would certainly not go as far as to say that the wise men understood all of this ... but I know the Holy Spirit knew it. I know this is not by accident in the Word of God. I know that of everything that could be listed, here is gold and frankincense and myrrh, Sovereign dominion, sacred deity, sacrificial death. That's what they brought to the Lord Jesus.
- The most important thing we are to remember in the scriptures, it is something that still today we set aside 3 or 4 services a year to commemorate, is the death of our Lord.
 - Its interesting that we celebrate Christmas practically all month every year as we celebrate the birth of our Lord.
 - But the early church was not told to remember his birth, they were told to remember what? His death.
- These wise men were there acknowledging that one day He would die upon the tree. He was not born just to perform miracles or to gain notoriety ... He was born to die.
 - Jesus Christ came as a baby in manger, born of a virgin, was placed in a stable b/c no one had room for Him ... and He did all of this for you!
 - He came so that He might die just for you.
- **What will you give Jesus this Christmas season?**
 - Because of His sovereign dominion, I'll give Him my wealth. All that I have belongs to Him.
 - Because of His sinless deity, I'll give Him my worship. I'll fall on my face before Him.
 - And because of His sacrificial death, I'll give Him my witness. I want the world to know that He died for me.
- **My wealth, my worship, and my witness belong to my Lord this Christmas season. And so do yours.**