

# BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

James M. Duncan, Pastor

DECEMBER 6, 2020

## THE GIFTS OF THE WISEMEN AND OUR GIFTS TO JESUS THIS CHRISTMAS

### Matthew 2:1-12

Here we have the story of the visit of the wise men, and gifts that they brought to the Lord Jesus. 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.

There's a lot that we do not know. We don't know for example, what the star was that led them. I personally believe that that there is a great possibility that it was not a star, like the stars that you will see tonight, when you go out and look. I believe it could be the **Shekinah glory of God in the heavens** which also appeared to the shepherd in Luke 2:9.

There is probably not a one of us who has not heard that slogan, "Wise men still worship or seek Him." And may I say, it wasn't easy for them to worship Him. They had a lot of barriers to overcome. Like:

1. **The Barrier of Distance V-1**
2. **The Barrier of Difficulty**
3. **The Barrier of Danger**

Understand that the wise men did not get to Jesus on Christmas Day, it was probably more like months and therefore, it took time, effort and determination to come and find Jesus and celebrate His birth with their gifts of love. The wise men started it all. When I talk about starting it all, I'm talking about gifts. Giving gifts, receiving gifts. In fact, I would like you to note a couple things about this simple story just as a way of introduction. I guess I'm impressed by the fact:

First of all, that their **gift was PERSONALLY GIVEN**

The second thing I notice is that it was **PROPERLY GIVEN**

Now I want us to see what these gifts are and what they represent and what they speak of.

### I. THE GIFT OF GOLD—SPEAKS OF HIS SOVEREIGN DOMINION

Gold was the most precious metal of that day. And in Bible times, and even today, gold is symbolic of royalty. And you see, when these wise men came to the Lord Jesus Christ and presented to Him gold, what were saying is that He is a King.

Now the questions comes, this Christmas, will you offer to the Lord the submission that is due to Him because He is your King?

Now secondly, we see...

### II. THE GIFT OF FRANKINCENSE SPEAKS OF HIS SINLESS DEITY

Well, you say, Pastor, I don't see anything there about deity, it just simply says, "frankincense." May I tell you dear friend, that if gold was a gift fit for a king, frankincense was used to worship Almighty God.

In the Book of Exodus chapter 30 starting at v-34 we are told about the different spices that were mixed together for worship in the tabernacle of God. What is God saying? God is saying that frankincense is the base of this holy incense that is most holy. It is to be given to God. And that incense that as it would rise up out of the tabernacle in the Old Testament and the Temple, speaks of the prayers, the worship of the saints that goes to Almighty God. What did these wise men recognize? They brought gold, and they recognized His sovereign dominion. And then they brought frankincense. They recognized His sinless deity. Jesus Christ is God of very God. I want you to look, if you will, in verse 11 of Matthew 2. I want you to see something incredibly significant. What did they do? They **"fell down and worshipped Him."**

Now Notice the third thing they brought Him...

### III. THE GIFT OF MYRRH SPEAKS OF HIS SACRIFICIAL DEATH

Myrrh was a gum-like substance that was unbelievably valuable. And it was 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 my dear friend, they **recognized His sacrificial death**. They recognized that this little baby was born to die.

Now I don't know whether the wise men understood all of this or not, 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 is what they brought to the Lord Jesus.

What will I 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.