

The Gifts of Wise Men

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

Introduction:

1. Christmas is not the birth of Christ.
2. However, it is a time of year when many reflect upon the birth of the Savior.
3. It is also a time of giving gifts to friends and loved ones.
4. We are reminded of the three gifts given by the wise men to young child, Jesus.
5. We learn from the gifts of wise men what we must give the Lord today...

I. The Gold of Sacrifice

- A. Gold has always been a symbol of prosperity and riches (cf. Genesis 13:2; 41:42).
- B. It is also a measure of currency for buying the necessities of life.
- C. Thus, the giving of gold to someone was to make a sacrifice of something precious out of a desire to please another.
 1. As Israel did for the Temple (Exo. 25:3; 35:22; 1 Kings 6:21-22)
 2. As the Jews did for one another (Ezra 1:4, 6)
- D. We, too, must be willing to sacrifice that which is most precious to us in order to serve the Lord.
 1. Money - 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19; 2 Cor. 8:1-5, 9; 9:6-7
 2. Time - Romans 13:11-12; Ephesians 5:15-16
 3. Family - Matthew 10:34-37
 4. Self - Matthew 10:38; Galatians 2:20
 5. Life - Matthew 10:39; Revelation 2:10
- E. Gold is a gift suitable for a king.

II. The Frankincense of Worship

- A. Frankincense is a white resin acquired by making an incision in the Boswellia tree and collecting the sap or gum that is expelled.
 1. The word "frankincense" comes from the French for "pure incense."
 2. It freely gives off a fragrant odor when burned.
 3. It is said to burn with a steady flame for long periods of time.
- B. Frankincense was used in three ways in worship to God at the Temple.
 1. First, it was used in meat offerings (Leviticus 2:1-3).
 2. Second, it was used in the showbread (Leviticus 24:6-8).
 3. Third, it was burned as incense in worship to God (Exodus 30:1, 7-8, 34). *{This was symbolic of prayer.}*
- C. Thus, frankincense was not only an expensive gift, but also one that was symbolic of their worship of the Savior.
- D. We, too, must be willing to give the Lord the worship due His holy name.
 1. John 4:24 - in the way He desires
 2. Matthew 15:8-9 - not according to man's traditions
 3. Hebrews 10:25 - with a right attitude
- E. Frankincense is a gift suitable for God.

III. The Myrrh of Submission

- A. Myrrh is a similar substance to frankincense and procured in a similar way.
- B. However, it is bitter to taste and used as a stupefying drug and in the process of embalming the dead (Mark 15:23; John 19:39).
- C. Myrrh was a costly gift, but also one that symbolized the sufferings to be endured by the Lord.
- D. We, too, must be willing to give the Lord our complete submission to Him since He submitted Himself to the cross for us.
 - 1. Mark 12:30 - my heart (Acts 8:37; 11:23)
 - 2. Matthew 6:10 - my will (John 4:34; 1 Peter 4:1-2)
 - 3. 2 Corinthians 5:15 - my life (Romans 12:1-2)
 - 4. Revelation 12:10-11 - my all (Revelation 2:10)
- E. Myrrh is a gift suitable for the sufferings of man.

Conclusion:

- 1. As we give gifts during this time of year, let us make sure we are giving to the Lord.
- 2. We owe Him the Gold of Sacrifice, the Frankincense of Worship, and the Myrrh of Submission.