

Three Kings

Relevant Bible Verses: Matthew 2:1-11 ; 1 Corinthians 13

Message Notes:

- People look at presents they get, and evaluate them based on cost. Children always want toys, but quickly lose interest and want something new. Adults are often the same; look at your most expensive present you've received and what you're doing with it now-likely nothing)
- We get so used to Christ in our lives that we forget to be thankful. The gift of Christ is far more expensive than anything that we'll ever receive. Do we stop to think about the fact that Christ is God, and the gravity of the choice he made to come save us?
- We may sacrifice small things, like time or money, to give gifts to those we love, but it is *nothing* next to what Christ gave for us.
- Gifts that we give are representations of what God gave us. Commercialized Christmas, basing gifts on naughty vs nice, has no bearing on what Christ gave. He has no restrictions on us; we all receive his gift.
- The three gifts given by the Wisemen are representative of gifts God gave us. Gold, a very valuable and precious commodity, is representative of Christ. Frankincense, used in the temple with a tempting aroma, is indicative of the gift of prayer. Finally, Myrrh, which was used to cover smells of death, is representative of the new life God has given us.
- What three gifts have you received from God? Faith, the Holy Spirit, and Salvation are examples.
- We forget how lowly we are, and how high God has raised us.
- The enemy has attacked Christmas, removing Christ and giving us alternate sources for the gifts and the joy we receive. Christmas is not just a time to get together and receive what we want. We need to remember the priceless gift of eternal life, life that cannot be bought or earned.
- God is not waiting to snatch the gift back when we make mistakes, just as parents don't wait for their child to mess up so they can take the gift back, because they love them.
- This Christmas, let each and every one of us remember what it is actually about, not who got the biggest gift, because we ALL already received the greatest gift- salvation through Christ Jesus our Lord.