

**Christmas Joy**  
*Christ was Born for Our Joy*  
Matthew 2:1-12

We see in Matthew 2:1-12, a Christmas story, yes not at the manger, but at a house. Most scholars believe that this was possibly a year after the birth of Christ or more. Here is the great take away: the wise men's Christmas joyful worship of Christ, the significance of their gifts, and how their actions provide a model for us as believers today.

**I. The Wrong Pursuit of Joy (Matthew 2:1-8)** Two types of people here were not joyous at the coming of Christ. The first type were the religious leaders, they were indifferent. They knew the prophecies inside and out, yet they didn't care. The 2<sup>nd</sup> person, Herod the king, was angry. He was so angry that verses 13-18 tell us he had all male children two years and under killed. Jesus' family fled to Egypt through God's prompting yet fulfilling more prophesy. We often pursue joy wrongly like Herod and the Religious leaders. We must pursue joy in Christ alone!

- a. Joy isn't found in a place unless it's in the presence of God.
- b. Joy isn't found in people unless it's in a relationship with Christ.
- c. Joy isn't found in a position unless it's as a good and faithful servant.
- d. Joy isn't found in presents unless it's the received gift of Jesus.

**II. The Proper Response to Jesus (Matthew 2:10-11)** The wise men had the proper response to Jesus, joy and worship! According to Philippians 2:10 every knee will bow to worship Jesus. I pray that everyone that we come in contact with, that we share the joyous news of Jesus, so that they will respond through Joy and that they do not encounter God's wrathful judgement! Who were these Wise Men? If you study the book of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar brought the best men out of the captured men to train and study. In Daniel we see the beginning of what became the Wise Men. Daniel, himself, was an original Wise Man. This whole thing is rigged! They were designed to find the Messiah! Matthew, a book written for Jewish believers of the day, begins with the nations looking for Jesus, the Wise Men. It was a call to Come see the joy of Christ! Matthew ends with those who have found Jesus, to go tell the nations about His joy, through the Great Commission! You and I are designed to find Jesus. You are I are designated to tell others how to find Him! They had exceeding great joy after their long journey in finding the prophesied and promised Christ. They followed the star, the very creation that God had made for them to find Christ! Be like the Wise Men, seek Jesus!

- a. Joy is the perfectly natural response to finding Christ.
- b. Their joy wasn't tied to material possessions, but to the discovery of the King.
- c. The joy they found was the fulfillment of the prophecies they followed.

**III. The Perfect Gift (Matthew 2:11-12)** Their first action was to fall down and worship the child, which is a model for our own lives. Worship is a physical and spiritual response that acknowledges God's worth. The wise men didn't just observe; they bowed down, a profound act of reverence.

The significance of their gifts

-Gold: Represents Christ's kingship and sovereign rule.

-Frankincense: Represents His deity and worship due to God.

-Myrrh: Represents His sacrifice and his destiny to die for us. These "treasures" displayed in a small way the worth, worship, and witness of Jesus. I love that the ultimate gift we can give at Christmas is ourselves. We do this through faith in Christ and service to mankind through His ministry. Paul points this out in ***Romans 12:1: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."***

-The wise men gave their best, and the greatest gift is to give our whole selves to Christ.

-This involves giving your time, compassion, and heart to Jesus. Consider what it means to give themselves to Jesus in a new and sacrificial way this Christmas.

-Giving yourself to Christ will never be convenient, but it will be greatest decision you will ever make for eternity!

Listen to Matthew 13:44-46: ***"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it."***

May Christ be your joy, your treasure, your everything!