

3—A Spirit of Giving

12/3/23

INTRO:

I. → Matthew 2:9-12

*9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the **star** they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.*

*→ 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and **worshipped** him. Then they **opened** their treasures and **presented** him with **gifts** of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

→ 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

BODY:

I. Worshipping the King

they bowed down and worshiped him

A. The star and the Magi remind us that Jesus is King!

1) **Psalms 72:10-11**

***The kings** of Tarshish*

***and** of the isles*

*will **bring presents**;*

*The kings of **Sheba** and **Seba***

*will **offer gifts**.*

***And** will fall down before him*

*all **the kings**.*

2) **MEMBERSHIP IN HIS KINGDOM**

B. Whatever we worship will shape our values in life.

1) **Jeremiah 2:5**

This is what the Lord says:

*"What fault did your ancestors find in me,
that they strayed so far from me?*

*They followed **worthless** idols
and became **worthless** themselves."*

2) **NOT ABOUT GOING INTO DEBT**

Grandma's pepperoni and 5 bucks

II. **Opening Up Our Treasure**

they opened their treasures

A. The original Santa was more about charity than consumerism.

1) **Matthew 6:20-21**

*"But store up for yourselves **treasures** in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

2) **LIFE OF ST. NICHOLAS**—*Michael the Archimandrite 9th c.*

"He loathed worldly amusements and the rashness of the rabble, on the grounds that they were corrupters of the virtue that makes one a friend of Christ. After his parents had gone to the Lord and left him much property and an abundance of money and possessions, he reckoned that he had God as his father. Gazing chastely on Him with the eye of his soul, he firmly begged the good God that he surrender his life and all his possessions, if that seemed good to Him. Nicholas did not cease to continually hand over his abundance—to store it up in the secure treasure-houses of heaven. So he was repaid in full by the impoverished."

3) **PROVIDING THE DOWRY FOR THE THREE GIRLS**

a) Nuns providing baskets of food

b) Dutch oranges in the shoes (Dec. 6)

c) German Kristkindl (Dec. 25)

- 4) "A Visit from St. Nicholas"—*Clement Clarke Moore 1823*
- B. The blessing really comes when we go from takers to givers.
- 1) **Acts 20:35**
"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
 - 2) **THE STAGES OF SANTA CLAUS**
 - a) Making my gifts in Junior High
 - b) Londa picking out Barbies

III. Presenting Our Gifts

presented him with gifts

- A. No matter how much we give Christ always gives us more.
- 1) **Psalms 72:12**
*For he will **deliver**
the **needy**
when they **cry out**,
and the **poor**
when there is no **helper** for him.*
 - 2) "Reaching the neglected peoples of the world with the neglected resources of the church."—*A. B. Simpson*
 - 3) **THE REINDEER RUN**
 - 4) **MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET—"SINTERKLAAS"**
- B. Not every gift we have to give has to do with money.
- 1) **1 Peter 4:10**
Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.