

Intro

- ~ Unexpected gifts are a blessing
- ~ A co-worker bought us facilities guys a box of chocolates to thank us for our help throughout the year. My box looked bigger than Joe and Dan's. Dan joked how my box was bigger than Joe and Dan's. He jokingly asked how I got the bigger box. We got to looking at the boxes later and while my box was bigger it was actually 2 ounces lighter. I joked and said, "You shouldn't walk by sight."
- ~ Yesterday I went through my neighborhood passing tins of cookies and gospel tracts – people were blessed
- ~ We see the Magi presenting gifts to a king

The gifts for the king

- ~ Their "treasures" are the receptacles in which their valuable gifts were kept.
- ~ We do not read that they brought gifts to Herod even when they had their audience with them. The gifts they had carried many a mile from Babylon are for this little Child who is able to receive them only through his parents.
- ~ And they are certainly royal gifts. To call them products of their land is probably a mistake. We know of no gold native to the territory of Babylon, and frankincense and myrrh of the finest quality came from India and, undoubtedly, were imported.
- ~ It was customary that when you came before a king you would bring gifts so the wise men do this

The gifts presented were gold, frankincense and myrrh

Gold = deity or royalty

- The wise men were able to see something that others for sure who at this time who knew Joseph, Mary and Jesus knew about this child
- While others only saw a child the magi saw God
- They came looking for a king
- They knew they were looking for a king because they had the OT scriptures, they saw "his star" and they were expecting him
- They followed this star or glory of God from the east and when they came to King Herod they recognized Christ as more of a king than Herod
- They presented their costly gifts to Jesus and not Herod
- When they came to Herod they asked, "Where is he that is born king of the Jews?"
- Barclay - Seneca tells us that in Parthia it was the custom that no one could ever approach the king without a gift. And gold, the king of metals, is the fit gift for a king of men.
- They are looking for a king and they brought gold, a gift for a king
- Haggai 2:7,8 "The Lord says the silver and gold are his" and now it's being presented back to him
- So, the gold represents his deity and though he is a child when the Magi show up he is also King, God, ruler, creator, sovereign of the universe

Frankincense = purity or the fragrance of his life

- Frankincense is a white resin or gum. It is obtained from a tree by making incisions in the bark, and suffering the gum to flow out. It is highly odoriferous or fragrant when burned, and was therefore used in worship, where it was burned as a pleasant offering to God. See Exo_30:8; Lev_16:12.
- The frankincense represents the fragrance of his life
- The life he was lived was a fragrance
- He healed people who were blind, lame, had diseases, leprosy,
- He raised the dead – Lazarus in John 11
- He cast demons out of those who were demon possessed
- He went out of his way to lead an unworthy Samaritan woman to salvation in John 4
- He healed a lame man in John 5
- He fed a multitude of people numbering at least about 20,000 people with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish
- He defended and restored the woman caught in adultery in John 8
- He healed the blind man in John 9

- He served the disciples by washing their dirty feet in John 13
- He comforts the disciples concerning his departure in John 14
- He gives His life for us in John 19
- He restores the disciples to fellowship and their calling in John 21
- His life gave off a fragrance that was loving, caring and forgiving
- Frankincense was also used in the offerings used by the priests
- Barclay - Frankincense is the gift for a priest. It was in the Temple worship and at the Temple sacrifices that the sweet perfume of frankincense was used. The function of a priest is to open the way to God for men. The Latin word for priest is pontifex, which means a bridge-builder. The priest is the man who builds a bridge between men and God.
- In Leviticus we find frankincense is referenced 4 times in Leviticus 2
- FB Meyer on Leviticus 2 "The meal-offering, which is described in this chapter, portrayed in emblem the perfect character of our Lord. He was as fine flour, of the best quality, without grit or coarseness. There was nothing uneven, nothing rough and harsh, nothing unseemly or forbidding in Him. He was anointed with the oil of the Holy Spirit; His perfect obedience was fragrant to the Father, and should be so to us; there was no leaven of guile or hypocrisy in His constitution.
- His life was sinless and perfect - He was the perfect high priest

He was God (gold for his deity), he was a perfect and sinless in his and the perfect high priest (frankincense) and that qualifies him to die for us (myrrh)

Myrrh = His sacrifice of death (ointment used for preparing a body for death)

- This was also a production of Arabia, and was obtained from a tree in the same manner as frankincense. It was obtained from a thorny tree, which grows 8 or 9 feet high. The name denotes bitterness, and was given to it on account of its great bitterness. It was used chiefly in embalming the dead, because it had the property of preserving dead bodies from decaying . Compare Jn 19:39, it was much used in Egypt and in Judea. It was at an early period an article of commerce Gen 37:25 when Joseph was sold to traders
- Myrrh was used in preparing Esther for the beauty contest before she was brought before King Xerxes (Esther 2:12).
- Gen 37:25 Myrrh was used in beauty treatments. When Joseph was traded by his brothers to the Ishmaelite's the traders were carrying spices, balm and myrrh. Isn't it interesting that Joseph a type of Christ was traded in for money like Jesus was? These traders were carrying myrrh
- When Jesus was on the cross a wine mingled with myrrh was offered to him but he wouldn't drink it (Matt 27:34; Mk 15:23)
- Nicodemus brought myrrh to be used in preparation of Jesus' body for burial (Jn 19:39,40).
- Barclay - Jesus came into the world to live for men, and, in the end, to die for men. He came to give for men his life and his death.
- The primary reason Christ was incarnated was the cross. Jesus had to deal with the sin problem and the way he dealt with the sin problem was to go to the cross
- All the miracles and healings and raising people from dead were spectacular but only a sacrificial death on the cross could atone for sin
- The purpose of the incarnation is the crucifixion
- The myrrh pictures his sacrificial death he would die for all the sins of the world
- Jn 1:29 Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world
- The wise men's gift of myrrh pointed to his sacrificial death on the cross

Conclusion

- ~ The wise men presented gifts to Jesus and his family
- ~ The greatest gift Jesus has given us himself and free gift of salvation
- ~ What gift can we give him in return? Ourselves
- ~ If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him. C T Studd
- ~ We give ourselves to him in Salvation and Sanctification
- ~ While the Magi presented gifts to Jesus what will you present? Give him your life – that is your gift to him

