

## **Matthew 2:1-12**

### **Gift Giving**

#### **Introduction:**

The practice of gift giving is our subject for this Lord's Day. I would like to explore the Theology of gift giving. We are aware in our culture some of the pitfalls of Christmas. Merchants are very clever to immediately captivate your attention the day after Thanksgiving, called "black Friday," It almost sounds a bit spooky but black Friday is supposed to be all the deals on all kinds of merchandise. The psychology behind this really works because the mall and shopping centers demonstrate the crowds that swarm the stores. Gift giving should have a positive connotation rather than a negative one. Christians, of all people should display the real meaning of Christmas as they love one another through gift giving. God first loved us therefore we love God and our neighbor. (I John 4:19)

#### **I. The Wrong Attitude in Gift Giving**

##### **A. The Magi came to worship Jesus – 2,11**

1. Herod pretended to worship Him – v.8
2. Three gifts: Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh – Rev. 8: 4 Psa. 141:2

##### **B. It's Jesus birthday, why don't we give gifts to him?**

1. The relationship between God and man is summarized in the two great commandments – Turn To: Matthew 22:34-40
2. When we give to our neighbor we are giving to God

##### **C. Three ways to mess up our giving:**

1. When we are grumps – (Scrooge, Judas – Matt. 26:6-13
2. When we separate God from our neighbor – (Pharisees – Mark 7:10:13
3. When we separate Our neighbor from God – Malachi 3:8

#### **II. The Right Attitude of Gift Giving**

##### **A. We give to God when we give to our neighbor**

1. How do we give to Jesus? – Matt. 10:40-42; Luke 12:13-34
2. Since no man has ever seen God, how can we give a present to the invisible God?  
I John 4:7-21

##### **B. Beware of foolish giving**

1. Keep gift giving in balance
2. Don't weary yourselves with the crowds, Remember Jesus loved the crowds – John 6

##### **C. Application:**

1. *Crowds give opportunities for the gospel*
2. *Give a cup of cold water to the weary people – Prov. 25:25*
3. *Let us extend ourselves to our brothers and sisters – II Cor. 9:12-13*
4. *We have been given an indescribable gift – II Cor. 9:15*
5. *We have been given the greatest gift of all – The Holy Spirit – Luke 11:13; Acts 2:38; Heb. 6:4*

#### **Finally:**

***Be sure you wrap your gifts because it will surprise Jesus! How can it surprise Jesus? Jesus is never surprised neither is Jesus ever hunger or thirsty or needing a new robe. The answer of surprise is in Matthew 25:35-40***

