

Christmas Present!

John 4:23-24

What is worship?

Based on what you see on the Internet?

If it's on the Internet, it MUST be True.

Based on what you see on TV?

Based on what your co-workers think?

What does the Bible say?

(John 4:24) *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

“TRUTH” is a direct reference to the Bible!

“spirit” is an attitude or motives.

Worship is Reverent Honor, Adoring Reverence,

Worship: means “Worth-Ship”

What is Christ “Worth” to you?

I. Shepherds Worshiped: Luke 2:8-20

Illus: These were probably Temple Shepherds.

They were just 5 miles away from Bethlehem.

In the employ of the Priests to tend the animals used for Sacrifice.

These sheep were used to picture the messiah,

Spotless, innocent, substitutionary!

That's why the angels came to them!

To announce the Layoff's. They were out of a job!

The true lamb of God had arrived!

They were not going to need to be anymore sacrifices!

Gave of Themselves: Vs 15 As they were! Rom 5:8

Gave Their Immediacy: Vs 16 Right Now!

“Came with Haste” 2 Cor 6:2 *Now is the time...*

Surrendered, not waiting for a more convenient time or a better offer!

“Here I am, it's not much, but take me!”

Gave Their Attendance: They showed up! Vs 16-17a

Gave Their Witness: Vs 17b-18

Gave Their Praise: Vs 20 Not too proud to admit it publicly!

II. The Wise Men Worshiped: Matt 2:1-12

The Number of the Wise Men: There may have been more. We sing the song, "We Three Kings of Orient Are," Because of the number of Gifts, but there may have been more.

What country these wise men came from. They came from the east. Possibly from Babylon. In Babylon there was a great prophet, a man of God whose name was Daniel. Babylon is to the east; it's our modern **Iraq**. It was there that young Daniel was taken captive, and it was there that Daniel taught, and in Babylon, there were wise men, Magi. As a matter of fact, the book of Daniel tells about them and these Magi had their lives saved by Daniel 2:24. And obviously they would have listened to the teaching and the preaching of Daniel and it was Daniel who prophesied a coming Messiah.

What the star was that led them. The Bible says that there was a star, but the word star isn't used in a literal sense; it's used in a symbolic sense. And it has the idea of something bright and shining, not necessarily used in the definite sense that we use the word today.

Illus: Eastern Scholars have always studied the stars, tracked their courses. A new Heavenly Light would have immediately attracted their attention and investigation.

What we do know is that these men were called wise men. And they were wise because they sought the Lord Jesus to worship Him. I think there's not a one of us who has not heard that slogan, "Wise men still seek Him." And may I say, it wasn't easy for them to worship Him. **They had a lot of barriers to overcome.**

They Gave of their Effort: Vs 1-3

Distance: 300 Miles from Babylon/Iraq

Difficulty: Tough Terrain, No Highways, Motel 6, or McDonald's

Dangers:

Bandits: Raided caravans.

King Herod: *Murdered his Mother, His Wife, His Sons.*

a. Gave of Their Humility: Vs 11 "Fell Down"

i. Gave up their pride 1st!

ii. Not TOO Proud to see their need for a savior.

iii. Not TOO busy to take the time to seek and find Him!

iv. Not TOO self important to bow before Him!

b. Gave of Their Resources: Vs 11

i. They Gave their Best! *"Treasures" Matt 6:19-21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

I want us to see what these gifts are and what they represent and what they speak of.

Gold, and gold is a gift that would be presented to a king. Gold was the most precious metal of that day.

In Bible times, and even today, **gold is symbolic of royalty.**

When these wise men came to the Lord Jesus Christ and presented to Him gold, what **they were saying is that He is a king.**

They Gave Him their wealth.

I believe that they had learned that the baby that would be born was a king. In Daniel 9:24-27, Messiah the Prince."

The word prince means king, ruler, sovereign.

When they brought gold, they said, "**We recognize His sovereign dominion.**"

Have you recognized His sovereign dominion.

Isaiah 9:6-7: *"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever."*

This child, this baby that we're talking about he is King of kings. He is Lord of lords.

Now the question is **will we offer to the Lord the submission that is due to Him because He is our king?**

Illus: It is not enough for you to tip your hat. You must bow your knee. Is 45:23, Rom 14:11

When these kings came to the baby Jesus, they did not cuddle Him. They did not play games with Him.

These powerful kings from the East bowed the knee in reverence to Him, and they recognized that indeed He is a King.

Look in **verse 2**, they said "*where is he that is born King of the Jews*".

Look in Micah 5:2, "*But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting..*"

We worship, heaven's king.
Have you given Him the submission that is due to Him as a King? Have you?

And they said, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? We have come to worship Him." Worship Him. What can I give Him today?

My dear friend, **I can recognize His sovereign dominion.**
I can recognize Him as my King.
The gold represents that sovereign dominion.

The frankincense If the gold represents His sovereign dominion, the frankincense represents **His sinless deity.**

Exodus 30:34-37 God explains how to make the proper incense to use in their worship of Him.
What is God saying? God is saying that frankincense is the

base of this holy incense that is most holy.

It is to be given to God.

And that incense that as it would rise up out of the tabernacle in the Old Testament and the Temple, speaks of the prayers, the worship of the saints that goes to Almighty God.

They recognized ***His sinless deity.***

Jesus Christ is God of very God.

They Gave Christ Worship!

They worshiped the Lord Jesus. Matthew 2:11

There are many today who do not give to the Lord Jesus the worship that is due to His name.

Nobody should worship anything or anybody except God Himself.

They worshiped Him. Why?

Because this baby was God.

How wise were these wise men?

Now whether they understood all of this or not, I don't know.

But I do know that God, the Holy Spirit impelled them to make these gifts and God, the Holy Spirit, recorded these gifts.

Now you say, "Well I don't believe that Jesus Christ is God but I do believe that He was a good man." Well Jesus Christ said, "There's none good but one, that's God." And if Jesus Christ is not God, Jesus Christ is not good by His own words.

If Jesus Christ is a man and only a man, I won't follow Him.

I will repudiate Him.

I will disown Him.

I will not worship Him.
I will not honor Him.
Because if Jesus Christ is a man and only a man,
He is a fake, a fraud, and an imposter for He Himself is
claiming to be God.

Jesus Christ Himself said of Himself in John 8:58 "Before
Abraham was, I Am." And that's the most sacred name for
deity, and Jesus claimed it for Himself.

What shall I give the Lord Jesus this morning?
Because He is sovereign dominion, **I give Him my will.** Be-
cause He is sinless deity, **I give Him my worship.**

There's never been another like the Lord Jesus Christ.
Jesus was the God man.

Have you ever thought how unique the life of the Lord Jesus
is?
How absolutely unique?

**Jesus never withdrew or modified anything that He ever
said.**

Jesus never ever apologized for any of His actions. Many
things they didn't understand, and some people got angry
with Him, but He never one time apologized.

**Jesus Christ never ever sought advice from anybody. Jesus
Christ never justified anything that He did.**

When He was late (seeming late) when Lazarus died,
He never gave any explanation.
When He was asleep on the back of a ship, when the ship

was about to sink, He never did justify His actions to any-
body.

Jesus Christ never had to ask forgiveness, not one time did
He ask for anybody ever to forgive Him or for God ever to
forgive Him. Why? Because He was sinless.

Jesus Christ never asked anyone to pray for Him. He asked
the disciples to watch and pray, and he told them to pray,
"lest ye enter into temptation."

But He never asked anyone to forgive Him.
He never corrected Himself.
And yet, He was not arrogant;
He was meek and mild.
Jesus Christ did not have any strong points.

In order to have strong points, you have to have weak points.
He had no strong points or weak points. He was the most
perfectly balanced individual who ever lived.

There was meekness without weakness,
tenderness without feebleness,
firmness without coarseness,
love without sentimentality,
holiness without sanctimoniousness,
lowliness without lowness,
truth without error,
enthusiasm without fanaticism,
passion without prejudice,
heavenly mindedness without forgetfulness,
carefreeness without carelessness,
service without servility,

self-exaltation without egotism,
judgment without harshness,
seriousness without somberness,
and mercy without softness."
That's the Lord Jesus.

Now they brought Him a third thing.
Not only did they bring Him gold, His sovereign dominion.
Not only did they bring Him frankincense, His sinless deity.

Myrrh: But they also brought Him myrrh.

Now what was myrrh?

Myrrh was also a gum-like substance that was very valuable.
It was used to embalm the dead.

Can you imagine bringing to a little baby something that
would be used to embalm the dead?

Why? Because not only did they recognize **His sovereign dominion**, not only did they recognize **His sinless deity**, but my dear friend, they recognized **His sacrificial death**. They recognized that this little baby was born to die.

Let me give you some scriptures. Mark 15:22-23

That's where Christ, bloody Golgotha, that's where Jesus died.

Myrrh was used as a narcotic, to dull pain.

But Jesus that He might taste of death for every man refused
the taste of that myrrh, there upon the cross.

John. 19:38-40

This was the manner of the Jews to bury someone.

Now I don't know whether the wise men understood all of
this or not, but I know the Holy Spirit knew it.

I know this is not by accident in the word of God.
I know that of everything that could be listed, here is gold,
frankincense and myrrh, Sovereign Dominion, Sinless Deity,
Sacrificial Death.

That's what they brought to the Lord Jesus.

The real Christmas tree is this: The Cross!

He in His own body bore our sins on the tree; that tree a
bloody cross, not decorated, but stained with the blood of
the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible records the birth of the Lord Jesus.

But these wise men at His birth were looking toward that
one day, when He would die upon the tree.

No wonder heaven's choir came down to sing with heaven's
king came down to save. He was born to die.

What will we give Jesus?

Because of His Sovereignty Dominion,

I'll give Him my Wealth and my Will.

All that I have belongs to Him.

Because of His Sinless Deity, I'll give Him my worship. I'll
fall on my face before Him.

Because of His Sacrificial Death, I'll give Him my witness.

I want the world to know that He died for me. My wealth,
my worship, and my witness belong to my Lord. And so
does yours.