

## **MAKE YOUR LIFE A GIFT TO OTHERS.**

Matthew 2:9-12

Jesus, the lifetime gift of God to mankind.

I wish you all Merry Christmas.

Today we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and it is worth celebrating. If our birthdays meant so much to us and we celebrate them, then celebrating the messiah's birthdays should take a much grandeur style.

Today I am speaking from Matthew 2 verse 11 which reads " And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh." NKJV

That is all I want to say about their knowledge and wealth. I now want to talk about their gifts. The verse I have just read to you states that '...they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshipped Him.'

### **WHY DID THEY COME?**

I want to remind you that these people called Magi are from the Eastern part of the world and we do not know exactly which part of the east. But what we know about them is that they were scholars in astrology hence they were able to read and understand the cosmic and reading the direction the star gave them was easy for them. From the account, it seems that sometimes they did not see the star as we have read that it was after they left Herod the star showed up again and led them to Bethlehem.

It is in the knowledge of people that Star travels from east to west, never known from north to south as it did from Jerusalem to Bethlehem and this makes the star unique. And it nullifies any attempt to put the star into any of the comets that are known to humanity.

Not only did the star was unique, the message the wise men got was unique, the Messiah and King of the Jews was to be born.

The magi were seeking the King, Herod was opposing the King, and the Jewish priests were ignoring the King. These priests knew the Scriptures and pointed others to the Saviour, but they would not go to worship Him themselves! They quoted Micah 5:2 but did not obey it They were five miles from the very Son of God, yet they did not go to see Him! The Gentiles sought and found Him, but the Jews did not Why would non Jews have to travel far towards the west to pay homage and worship a new born king? From the knowledge of the starts they gift the information and because they understood it they were convinced that the information they had was true, authentic and genuine and they made the right choice to embrace the new king. They believed him even though he is still a baby now, they believe that one day He will rule the world and all the wealth of the universe will be under his control.

Once they made the choice to embrace the new King, they have to find Him and they did everything to find Him. Even though it is the king that came to find us the lost world, the wise men did the proclaiming job.

In addition to vast knowledge in astronomy, they were very rich and this was demonstrated in the gift they gave to the King of kings, baby Jesus.

#### THEY GIVE THEMSELVES FIRST

Why would such wise, learned and wealthy people worship just a little baby? The inspiration I got for this is that having recognised who this baby is, they were moved to give themselves first to Jesus. They knew what many people did not know and because of that they want to see what many other people have not seen. They followed the star down south from Jerusalem to Bethlehem and found the baby exactly where the star stood. Hence they fell down to worship Him.

How can you come face to face with the Queen and not bow your head or kneel down in respect and honour. If we could do this for just an earthly royalty who have no advantage over you before God, how much more you must fall down in worship to Jesus, the Saviour and Christ the anointed One. The Magi knew who truly Jesus is and they gave Him what He deserves, they gave themselves and their lives.

Falling down before this little child signifies His royalty and his kingship attributes and that one day every knee will bow before Him and confess Him the King.

When we bow down to Jesus in worship we say we are your subject and He is in charge of us and our lives, He is in control of all our affairs and we surrender everything to Him.

#### THEY GIVE HIM GIFTS

Since they surrendered their lives to Jesus by giving Him true worship, it was not difficult for them to surrender their wealth and treasures to Jesus.

This is one thing that is very difficult for most of us. When it comes to giving gifts and our treasures, we hold back, we are mean and stingy. The problem is not that it is difficult, but it is because we have not actually surrendered ourselves completely to Christ. If we had surrendered our lives completely to Him, we would realise and understand that all riches and wealth of the universe belongs to Him and that He created everything. He who created everything had all authority over everything and this will make it easy for us to surrender even our all to him without looking back.

If we know Him as he is and truly surrender our lives to Him, nothing will be important to us than the person of Jesus.

#### FOLLOW JESUS' EXAMPLE

Let us take an example from what God did for us, He gave us His one and only begotten and beloved son to pay the debt He did not owe and the debt we cannot pay. He who was rich became poor so that we might be rich, He who is the all powerful became weak so that we might be strengthened and powerful. This is the example we must follow.

Christ came as a gift to humanity, the question I want to give you is that is your life a gift to the people around you?

Although Jesus' life is a gift to humanity, but today you are Christ ambassador in your community, at your work and in your family. I want you to pause for a moment and consider how your life has been gift to others. I challenge you to make amendment in those areas you have not been gifts to people around you. You can let your life be gifts to others in three ways

**Physically:** You should use your physical power and ability to bless people with what you can do and you must remember that whatever you have is a gift from God and he gave it to you to use for others. Do not be a hoarder but be a giver. Do not be like the Dead Sea that receives but never gives hence it is dense and stale and that is why nothing can thrive in there. Rather I encourage you to be like the Sea of Galilee that receives and gives, hence its water is always fresh and produces the majority of the fish that feed Israel and even for export.

**Emotionally:** Most people are deprived emotionally, no relationship works, they have bent backwards to the point of breaking down. The only thing they need is listening ear, encouragement and upliftment.

**Financially:** The wise men gave gold which is the most expensive gift and even up till today it is the best thing you can invest in to give you a better return. The economic downturn we are in now has seen the demand for gold increased more than before because the economy, technology, shares and stocks have fallen flat on our face and suddenly people who thought they were wealthy became poor because of the fall in shares and stocks.

To Conclude:

As we celebrate the birth of the Kings of kings, the Lord of lords, it is important that we emulate Him who presented Himself as the unparalleled gift of redemption to the world. We should see all that we are and have are gifts to the world and not only to us and our loved ones alone, therefore we must spend ourselves for others and we would truly be our father's children.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL