

Sermon Outline - Sun, December 4 , 2022
Bringing Jubilee Into Christmas
Matthew 2:1-12

Overview of Month – Last week we started our conversation about Jesus as the embodiment of Jubilee. From Matthew 1 we focused on the importance of being in a Kinship group as part of Jubilee. We reflected that (1) Even Jesus wasn't alone – we are created for relationship. (2) Our Ancestors Matter – they offer blessings and burdens we need to acknowledge. (3) We choose to be kin despite the drama. Today I want to start the month with some practical guides for how we can make Christmas a Jubilee-filled time if we are choosing to engage in gift giving.

Exegesis

- In this second Chapter of Matthew we hear the story of the Magi
- Some historical note on this story
 - Vs 1 - Probably around a year after Jesus birth = manger scenes not accurate
 - Vs. 3 – All of Jerusalem is like all of DC (not normal people but those in power)
 - Vs. 11 is at the house. So family likely in Nazareth, and living with the rumors
 - Vs. 11 – They bring gifts.
- This act by the Magi is what we connect with the Christmas gift giving tradition.
- Shout out to men who knew the importance of a baby shower. Biblical mandate for all gender baby showers. Small note that if the Magi were women, they probably would have brought more practical gifts like diapers,, but big ups to them anyway.
- Gold – Precious Metal for Currency – Royalty -
- Frankincense – Perfume Used in Worship – Divinity - Creating sacred space
- Myrrh – Ointment for healing and burial – Humanity -

Key Points –Gift Giving in a Jubilee Way

1. Gold – Giving something that reflects how much you value and know the person or that lifts up their values and the things they treasure.
2. Frankincense – Recognizing the person as a spiritual being. Inviting them to connect with the sacred, to carve out worship time, and to grow spiritually
3. Myrrh – Seeing the humanity of a person, meeting their physical needs especially in a time of sickness.

In this season can we get really focused on spending money and getting the “perfect gift” my challenge to you is to get Jubilee gifts for at least 1-2 people in your life.

Three Gifting Challenges -

1. How can you show someone how much you value them? What gift would reflect your deep shared values?
2. How can you create sacred space or support someone's worship practice?
3. How can you give a gift of healing or capture something that deeply celebrates someone's humanity?