



A Costly Christmas | THE SOUND OF CHRISTMAS

Matthew 2:1-12

“Buy your own present.” → **Matthew 2:1-12**

→ We often give gifts to each other and to those in need at Christmas to celebrate the great gift God gave to us in Christ. With as many people on our lists, it can get costly. Maybe we should pause and consider the cost of Christmas. As the prices of everything seem to be skyrocketing, the cost of Christmas has already been paid. That is reason to worship. Open up your hearts and and honor God!

→ **How was Christmas costly?** → Christmas was costly for different reasons...

→ Christmas is all about the birth of Jesus... God in the flesh and a gift from to us. This baby would save His people from their sins and extend salvation to all who would call on His name. Every character in the Christmas story paid a cost to witness him. For those who worshipped and those who did not. May we worship God with all of our hearts because the cost of Christmas has already been paid!

Matthew 2:1-12: *In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:*

6 ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

7 Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” 9 When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Herod paid the cost. → Herod wasn't interested in worship, but was consumed with himself.

- Herod was sick. → Eusebius of Caesarea, Eusebius of Caesarea: Ecclesiastical History QUOTE
- Herod was a selfish & evil man. → At this point, he had already murdered his wife and 2 sons and even though he was within a few months/short years of his own death, he would stop at nothing to eliminate his competition.
- APPLICATION: When we fail to bring Him our worship... the only person it ends up costing... is US.

→ TRANSITION: Herod paid the cost of Christmas because he refused to worship the true King.

The wisemen (and their caravan) paid the cost. → Wisemen. We assume 3 bc of the 3 gifts...

- The Wisemen came with Gold, Frankincense, & Myrrh.
 - **Gold** = Kingly reign
 - **Frankincense** = Temple Burnt Offering / Ingredient in Sacrifices / Incense / Perfume / Worship of God

- **Myrrh** = Burial Spice / Anointing Oil Ingredient (John 19:39)
 - These costly gifts would have sustained Joseph and his family in **Egypt**...to escape the wrath of King Herod.
 - The Little Drummer Boy...came with his drumming: Pa rum pum pum pum...
 - Katherine Kennicott Davis: performed by "The Trapp Family Singers" (The Sound of Music) Others below...
 - I am a poor boy, I have no gift to bring, That's fit to give our king, I played my best for him, Then he smiled at me
 - APPLICATION: When we come to ANYTHING (a job, a family, friends...or a holiday)...and give our best...that's GOOD. But when we give our BEST to God...that's worship. Heartfelt worship is ALWAYS welcome.
 - Diane Rayner: Marty (son) & Kenny (neighbor boy)
- TRANSITION: The wisemen searched out the true King, worshipped, & brought gifts. And then their was Mary...

Mary paid the cost.→Mary. Yes...Jesus' mother.

- Mary, who would believe the Angel's Word over her life and the life of her son...that Jesus would save his people from their sins. Mary, who would treasure these things in her heart from what the Shepherds would say. Mary, who would receive the gifts from the Wisemen...and observe these important figures kneeling before her infant son.
 - **What would it feel like to hold the promises of God in your arms...but to know it wouldn't be easy for him?!**
 - Poem by Kathleen Weber: "God's Own Son"
- TRANSITION: Mary paid a cost to be the mother of Jesus...raising a son she would come to realize would pay the ultimate cost. The world gained salvation and forgiveness of sins...bc the cost he would ultimately pay.

→**The cost of Christmas has been paid because the cost of sin has been paid. And that is a gift we must receive.**

QUOTES / SONGS:

"Grandma Ruby decided to buy presents for all of her family and friends was a bit much at Christmas now that she was in her 90's. So this year she wrote out checks for all of them to put in their Christmas cards. In each card she carefully wrote, "Buy your own present" and then sent them off. After the Christmas festivities were over, she found the checks under a pile of papers on her desk. So everyone on her gift list had received a beautiful Christmas card from her with the words "Buy your own present" written inside – without the check! - **David E. Owen**

"The disease then seized upon his whole body and distracted it by various torments. For he had a slow fever, and the itching of the skin of his whole body was insupportable. He suffered also from continuous pains in his colon, and there were swellings on his feet like those of a person suffering from dropsy, while his abdomen was inflamed and his privy member so putrefied as to produce worms. Besides this he could breathe only in an upright posture, and then only with difficulty, and he had convulsions in all his limbs, so that the diviners said that his diseases were a punishment." - **Eusebius of Caesarea, Eusebius of Caesarea: Ecclesiastical History**

Drummer Boy or "Carol of the Drum"

by Katherine Kennicott Davis,
American classical music composer (1941)

Come they told me
Pa rum pum pum pum

A new born king to see
Pa rum pum pum pum

Our finest gifts we bring
Pa rum pum pum pum

To lay before the king
Pa rum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum

So to honor him
Pa rum pum pum pum
When we come

Pum pum pum pum
Pa rum pum pum
Pum pum pum pum
Pa rum pum pum
Pum pum pum pum
Pa rum pum pum
Pum pum pum pum pa rum

Little baby
Pa rum pum pum pum
I am a poor boy too
Pa rum pum pum pum

I have no gift to bring
Pa rum pum pum pum
That's fit to give our king
Pa rum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum

Shall I play for you
Pa rum pum pum pum
Pa rum pum pum
Pum pum pum pum

Mary nodded
Pa rum pum pum pum
The ox and lamb kept time
Pa rum pum pum pum

I played my drum for him

*Pa rum pum pum pum
I played my best for him
Pa rum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum*

*Then he smiled at me
Pa rum pum pum pum
Me and my drum*

*Come they told me
Pa rum pum pum pum
A new born king to see
Pa rum pum pum pum*

*Me and my drum
Me and my drum
Me and my drum
Me and my drum
Rum pum pum pum*

**God's Own Son
by Kathleen Weber**

*As Mary rocks her baby boy
She's filled with sadness, filled with joy
She looks upon that tiny face
And sees the hope of every race.*

*Her heart is filled with a mother's glow
And she never wants to let him go.
She'll see him run and laugh and play
And longs to keep him safe each day.*

*His life won't be an easy one,
His destiny hard, as God's own Son.*

*Mary sees the miracles he'll perform,
The lepers healed and free from scorn.
The lame will walk, the blind will see.
She sees his love will set us free.*

*And then she sees him on a cross.
She feels his pain and feels our loss.
She knows his life must come to this.
She sheds a tear and gives a kiss.*

*His life won't be an easy one,
His destiny hard, as God's own Son.*

*So as Christmas time draws near
And we are all so "busy" here,
With shopping, baking, trees of green
Let's ask, what does this really mean?*

*Let's take a moment from the fuss,
And think of all their gifts to us:
A mother's love, a baby boy,
Peace and comfort, love and joy.*

*For he was born for everyone,
His destiny, God's only Son.*

*- Quoted from pages 41-42 in Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul: 101 Stories to Open the Heart and Rekindle the Spirit,
by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Patty Aubery & Nancy Mitchell*

LINKS / RESOURCES:

- **Song History:** "Drummer Boy" <https://holidappy.com/holidays/History-of-Christmas-Carols-Little-Drummer-Boy>
- **Quote from above link:** "These are just a few of the recordings made of the music through recent history:
 - 1962. Bing Crosby released it as a solo version of 'I Wish You a Merry Christmas', then in 1977 with David Bowie on Bing's final holiday TV Special as a medley titled 'Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy'.
 - 1965. The Supremes recorded the song for their album 'Merry Christmas'.
 - 1969. Jimi Hendrix recorded the song and included it in his 1999 EP 'Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'.
 - 1970. The Brady Bunch released a version of 'Christmas with The Brady Bunch'.
 - 1981. Boney M released a German version of the song on their 'Christmas Album'.
 - 1996. Apocalyptica released it as a single
 - 1998. Alicia Keys released 'Little Drummer Girl' on Jermaine Dupri Presents Twelve Soulful Nights of Christmas.
 - 2001. Westlife with Dolores O'Riordan of The Cranberries sang it live for Pope John Paul 11.
 - 2003. Whitney Houston and her daughter recorded it for 'One Wish: The Holiday Album'.
 - 2009. Bob Dylan sang a version of the song in 'Christmas in the Heart'.
 - 2010. Pink Martini sang the song in their album 'Joy to The World'.
 - 2011. Sean Quigley released a 'rock anthem' version video on YouTube and got a million hits in a week."

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

Luke 2:1-7 - *At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. 2 (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. 4 And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. 5 He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.*

6 And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. 7 She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

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