

## The Gift- Myrrh

When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! <sup>11</sup> They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:10-11

Myrrh's uses in the Bible:

An expensive spice fit for a king

A symbol of suffering

Exodus 30:23- holy anointing oil (The Lord instructed Moses to anoint the temple & the priests.

This Myrrh speaks to **HOLINESS**)

Esther 2:12- perfume (which Esther used to bring free her people. This Myrrh speaks to

**FREEDOM**)

Mark 15:23- used in the sour wine they offered Jesus (meant to dull His pain, but He refused, choosing instead to experiencing the full pain on our behalf- he would not take a shortcut. This

Myrrh speaks to **SALVATION**)

John 19:39- embalming spices (Nicodemus- same one to whom Jesus spoke John 3:16. Same one who sat on the council of Pharisees who condemned Jesus. This Myrrh speaks to

**REDEMPTION**)

God was declaring Jesus' purpose on Earth at His birth: He was born to die, so that we may experience holiness, freedom, salvation and redemption.

**Jesus CHOSE to be our suffering servant.**

The Lord's Suffering Servant

<sup>13</sup> See, my servant will prosper;

he will be highly exalted.

<sup>14</sup> But many were amazed when they saw him.

His face was so disfigured he seemed hardly human,  
and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man.

<sup>15</sup> And he will startle many nations.

Kings will stand speechless in his presence.

For they will see what they had not been told;

they will understand what they had not heard about.

Isaiah 52:13-15

-Myrrh is taken from a tree.

-He started and finished His time here on Earth connected to the cross; the tree.

-The baby in the manger already had His eyes set on the cross. (fully man and fully God)

-His decision was to choose to suffer temporarily for an eternal reward.

-To God, the cross and the manger were the same. He doesn't see one without the other.

-His decision to be born was His decision to suffer.

**Jesus suffered on our behalf.**

Yet it was our weaknesses he carried;

it was our sorrows that weighed him down.

And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God,  
a punishment for his own sins!

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our rebellion,  
crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole.

He was whipped so we could be healed.

<sup>6</sup> All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.

We have left God's paths to follow our own.

Yet the Lord laid on him  
the sins of us all.

Isaiah 53:4-6

-He endured for the joy that was set before Him- that's the eternal reward of relationship with you and me!

-His crushing equaled our forgiveness.

-His brokenness equaled our wholeness.

-His pain equaled our healing.

-His suffering equaled our redemption.

**Jesus' suffering was final, victorious and for all.**

But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him  
and cause him grief.

Yet when his life is made an offering for sin,  
he will have many descendants.

He will enjoy a long life,  
and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands.

<sup>11</sup> When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish,  
he will be satisfied.

And because of his experience,  
my righteous servant will make it possible  
for many to be counted righteous,  
for he will bear all their sins.

Isaiah 53:10-11

- That first cry at birth was just as much the cry of salvation for all as His final cry on the cross.

-From first words as a toddler to "it is finished" He is the same God

-Jesus suffering opened the door to righteousness for all.

-He defeated death so that we could live!

Matthew 2:10-11

Jesus flipped the script at Christmas- the moment he was born, the model of sacrifice so we can worship was obliterated and the eternal hope of worship then obedience was born. He didn't wait until resurrection to show us Heaven's way.

"Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup> I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.

Revelation 1:17b & 18

So what is our response to this suffering servant? This reigning King? To the first and the last? To worship like the Magi did. To forget about what we bring or don't bring and just fall at our Savior's feet.