

One Crazy Christmas The Gifts of the Wisemen

1. Title Slide - The Gifts of the Wisemen
2. What is the craziest gift you have ever given to someone?
3. What is the craziest gift you have ever received?

When My sister was like 5 or 6, my mom bought her an olivia newton john tape - when my sister looked at it, she was like what is this - my mom was like oh you don't want that? Ill take it.

INTRO

We are going to take a look at the wisemen and the gifts that they brought to Jesus. These men would have gone against the command of Herod And these gifts of what they brought Jesus were the best of what they had.

We are being challenged these days to grow and go. This season of advent is a time for us to reflect on the growing as we look deep within and find what we are giving to God beyond material things. Are we giving the best of what we have, more than just material things.

4. Matthew 2:1-12 - follow along in your Bible

5. Why were they called wise men?

They were also known as dream interpreters, magicians, astrologers, and fortune tellers. This is why they were called wise men. They dabbled in other forms of religion. It's not that they are wise, it's that they are smart.

@ a party - a Christmas Quiz

- Where did Mary and Joseph go after leaving bethlehem? - egypt
- What is the most popular ornament placed on top of a christmas tree? - star
- What color was rudolf's nose? - red
- How many wise men were there? - we don't know

6. The Wisemen would have gone against the command of Herod

Matthew 2:1 - they came to Jerusalem to see where the Christ Child was - they had saw a star

Matthew 2:3 - King Herod heard of this and was upset and all jerusalem was too

Matthew 2:4-6 - He called together the chief priests and teachers and asked them what was going on - they shared with him prophecy about the birth of Christ

Matthew 2:7 - Herod called the Magi and found out from them the exact time the star appeared

Matthew 2:8 - He said, go and get this child because I want to worship him, to.

Matthew 2:9-11 - they found Jesus after following the star, brought him gold, frankincense, and myrrh

Matthew 2:12 - The magi were warned in a dream- they were warned and they didn't return the way they came

7. Dreams in the Bible

God can speak to us however he wants to.

- He is not limited by anything in order to speak to us.
- Speaking through dreams is less and less these days, you don't normally hear about that - if you do, it is often taken with a negative connotation - and we could chalk someone up as crazy if they say...well God spoke to me through a dream.

We things happen in dreams. God still does this. In our dreams,

- we get flashbacks, sometimes good other times bad - nightmares
- old relationships are processed through dreams
- Husbands, have you ever got in trouble with your wife for something you did in one of her dreams.

We might be in a place of unconsciousness but our mind is still processing. And if our mind can still process, then God has the opportunity to speak to us.

Dreams in the Bible

- Solomon received wisdom through a dream - 1 Kings 3
- Jacob's ladder in Genesis 28
- Daniel's beasts - Daniel 7
- Jesus birth
 - Joseph's warning - Matthew 2
 - Joseph's Message - Matthew 1
 - Return from Nazareth -
 - Wisemen's warning to avoid King Herod - Matthew 2:12

8. Matthew 2:12 - And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

- Dreams were a way for someone to be separated from the day-to-day distractions and thought processes, and for God to have a person in a rested state of full attention.
- Dreams were a way for God to speak to someone in a fully rested state, waking up refreshed to act on what God had told them within the dream.

They would have been separating themselves from the chaos of the Kingdom that had been established.

Through the dream, God is redirecting them away from the chaos so they can go and find Jesus and give him their gifts.

9. The Wisemen brought the best of what they had

Gift registry - we usually register for clothes, diapers, bottles, pacifiers, bottle warmers,

10. These gifts were the best of what they had & were prophetic to the life of Jesus

11. Gold

- **More than just having lots of money**
- **Anyone who had any gold was considered wealthy - I want to give the best of what I have -**
- **Acquiring gold in the bible is about wisdom, faith, and knowledge**
- **One day, we will be in the place where the streets are paved with gold - we might look at that as a place where there is wealth because we live in a state where the streets have lots of potholes - but what the bible is referring to is a place where faith, wisdom, and knowledge are established.**
- **A place where the best of what someone could possess would be used to prepare the place for us. Revelation 21:21 - the new jerusalem - a new city coming down from heaven, all things made new, a city of pure Gold**
- **The bible speaks about gold**
 - **Proverbs 16:16**
- **Regardless of the take on Gold, it remains one of the most precious metals and it was the best that they had to give**

12. Frankincense - scented incense - scent - sweet aroma of worship -

- **Sweet Aroma of Worship**
- **Ephesians 5:2**
- **2 Corinthians 2:15**
- **the woman who anoints Jesus with perfume -**
- **Peter and his reinstatement - John gospel - KJV**

And as they looked around the house, they had gold and some had frankincense. This would have been something that would have contributed to the sweet aroma of their worship

13. Myrrh - anointing oil

- **Holy anointing oil**
- **Embalming fluid - John 19:39**
- **Same substance they would have fed Jesus when he was on the cross in Mark 15:23**
- **This gift has caused lots of discussion over the years about whether or not the magi were paying tribute to the Messiah or providing treatment to something that might have been prophesied to them.**
- **This is a gift of the full circle, a prophetic gift that would be an indication of his time and his sacrifice here on earth for God's purposes**

And this was the best of what they had.

There are many times in the Bible that people brought the best of what they had:

- **The woman who poured perfume on Jesus' feet - Luke 7**
- **The widow who gave two coins - Mark 12**
- **Joseph of Arimathea gave a tomb for Jesus burial - Matthew 27**
- **The church in Macedonia gave their best to Paul - 2 Corinthians 8**

14. Pic of Little Car (attached)

****Story of little car - it was all he had- car picture -**

I held it in my hand and looked at it while he talked.

He said, "When I was in elementary school, we did a Secret Santa in my class room at school. All the kids drew a name and then we exchanged presents the last day before Christmas break".

He said, "My parents went out and bought me a nice new toy to give to the child I had drawn. My mom wrapped it up and the kid loved the present that received it." He then said, "I went and found my present from a boy in my class that I didn't really know. It looked like it had been wrapped with newspaper."

He said, "I opened it and it was that little car you are holding in your hand." He said, "... but when he gave it to me it was dirty and looked well played with."

He said, "I was mad I had given such a nice gift and he had put so little effort into his gift. I felt cheated. But later I learned the kid lived in a very run-down shack. His mom was sick and his daddy had left them years before. They barely had enough money to have heat and food."

He said, "When I realized he had given me one of his only few toys, I felt ashamed for the way I treated him when I got the gift. I only learned how poor he was after he quit coming to school and we were told his mom had died and he had been sent to foster care. I never saw him again."

I kept this little car all these years because I know it was the best present I have ever gotten."

I thought about this story and looked at that little car sitting in my hand and I cried. How many times in my life have I been given something from someone and not appreciated its TRUE value. This kid had given with his heart when he had so little.

Do we bring the best of what we have?

Especially in the face of chaos, the times where life is tough, things are confusing, we feel like we are spinning out of control, do we bring the best of who we are? What do we have? And lay it at the feet of Jesus?

As we grow toward a deeper walk with Jesus, we find that despite our tough times of chaos, the best of what we have to bring to Jesus is our hearts: broken, hurting, grieving, wayward hearts.

Our hearts that need work, our hearts that have been through lots of stuff - we need to realize today that our hearts are the best of what we have to give and God wants them no matter the condition.

15. Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God

(Worship Team Return To Platform)

God says, I realize that the best they had at the time was perfume, two coins, a little bit of gold, frankincense, and some myrrh.

God says, I realize that the best they could give was their left-overs, their broken down car to help someone in need,

And we always use those stories to speak of times when people gave the best of what they had materially, but beyond that is the heart of the giver.

16. There is a gift and a giver
God is the giver = Jesus is the gift.
In return: We are the giver and we are gift.

What God is most interested in aside from the stuff we can give is that we give our hearts fully to him. Which, if we were to look at its condition, might be as battered and bruised as some of the material gifts we give to him.

It's our hearts, our devotion to God, our mind, soul, and strength that is pleasing to God.