

**Blessing Beneath The Star**  
**Matthew 2:9-12**  
**Al Gascon | December 24, 2023**

**Quote of the Week**

*“What's so merry about Christmas? I'll tell you what Christmas is, It's just another work day! Bah Humbug!” —Scrooge McDuck*

- ⇒ Presents and giving gifts and blessings are special. Even Jesus received gifts in the Christmas story!

*Matthew 2:1-12*

- ⇒ Beneath the star there were gifts and blessings given.
- ⇒ The gifts of the Magi were an act of worship.
- ⇒ All gifts beneath our stars should remind us of God's gift and blessing, and should lead us to worship.

*“Merit based living is exactly what most people think a religion is, and then I drop a little bomb into their minds and I say ‘but that isn't Christianity folks.’ In religion, acceptance comes at the end on the basis of an assessment of merit. Well, if that's religion, Christianity is not a religion. It's a relationship with God and acceptance comes at the beginning! That's Radical!”*

—John Lennox