

ADVENT (Coming)
The Wisemen: The Gift for the Gift
Week 3 December 14, 2025
Pastor Mike Popovich

Christmas has become for the most part about giving and receiving gifts.

It's Jesus who is the gift... All He wants is your hearts.

RECOGNIZING THE GIFT Seeing Jesus for who He really is.

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."

Matthew 2:1–2, 10–11

They understood that this star signaled the arrival of a king unlike any other.

The Magi's recognition was evident in their sacrifice.

True recognition of Jesus as Lord means He gets the best of our time.

RESPONDING WITH WORSHIP Moving from recognition to reverence.

"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth." Psalm 96:8–9

The Magi's gifts were deeply symbolic and theologically rich:

- Gold represented kingship — acknowledging Jesus as the rightful ruler.
- Frankincense was used in temple worship — recognizing Jesus' deity.
- Myrrh was used for burial preparation — anticipating His sacrifice.

It takes what we believe about Jesus and makes it visible in how we live.

RELEASING OUR HEARTS Giving what God actually wants.

"My son, give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways."
Proverbs 23:26

The heart represented the whole inner person.

God desires your obedience, but He desires it to flow from a heart that loves Him, not from a heart that's trying to earn something from Him.

REFLECTING THE GIFT Living as grateful recipients.

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" 2 Corinthians 9:15

Generosity is the natural overflow of a heart that has received incredible grace.

The greatest gift we can give Jesus is ourselves.