



## He Came to Die a Sacrificial Death

John 12; Luke 2

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**Intro:** Just as we have seen over the last couple of months in “The Real God” series, we can have a distorted view of God that will affect every part of our lives, so we can have a distorted view of the Christmas story—why Jesus came to earth. That’s why we are going straight to the source, Jesus, and hearing what he taught about why he came.

**Why did Jesus say that he came? He came to die a sacrificial death.**

**Jesus speaks in multiple paradoxes to make one point: To live you have to die.**

Wheat image One kernel of wheat dying in the ground and yet raised to be a plant that produces many kernels. A man who loves his life on earth will lose eternal life in heaven, but a person who “hates” his life on earth (in comparison to his love for God) will love eternal life in heaven. The person who serves Christ on earth will be honored in heaven.

It was all prophesied. It was all set. 700 years earlier:

**Isaiah 53:4-6** NIV

**Apply:**

**To live you have to die.** Period. Die to self; die to selfishness. Die to the demonic belief that you can earn your way to heaven. Die to loving your favorite sin over obedience to God. To live you must first die.

**Matthew 2:1-12**

***Who were these wise men?***

**Magi:** Persian astrologers, wise men, and mystics. He led the magi to understand prophecies, to travel 900 miles eastward, and to find the child, and to present the exact, perfect, prophetic gifts appropriate for the Messiah. **You can trust a God like that!**

- Jesus is the theme of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation.
- More than 300 specific prophecies in the O.T.
- Jesus is the agent of creation in Genesis; he is the fourth being in the fiery furnace in Daniel. The preexistent Christ did not come into being at Bethlehem.
- Struggle with accepting the claims of Christ? Read the testimony of the eyewitness apostles!
- Struggle with weak faith? Read the gospels.

***What do the gifts amazingly foreshadow?***

**Gold:** The precious metal of royalty, a gift you give to a king.

**Incense:** Symbolized divinity. Incense was lit as an element of sacrifice and worship of God. It’s a gift you give a God.

**Myrrh:** A perfumed ointment used for burial. It’s a gift you give for someone’s death.

Why would they bring burial ointment? Because they were part of something bigger than themselves. God orchestrated this whole thing. They did not understand, but God did! God the Father was honoring God the Son in advance for his future sacrificial death.

**Apply: What gifts could you give Christ that show that you value his sacrificial death?**

- Sharing the reason for the season
- Inviting others to services/activities
- Giving to the needy (Giving Tree)
- Sacrificially giving to the Global Missions Offering
- Serving your church in teaching the next generation