

MESSIAH: THE GIFT OF GOD

Matthew 2; Ephesians 2

Steve Holdaway, LifeSpring Church, Christmas Eve 2017

Intro: 6' Christmas soldier I purchased for our home



Audience response: What is a funny or lame gift that you received from someone?

THE BIG QUESTION: Have you received the Gift that God sent to save your life forever?

Series: MESSIAH, The Son of God, The Glory of God, The Gift of God

Magi from the East presenting gifts to the Christ child

Matthew 2:1-2; 9-12

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 in the east and have come to worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 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 and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Gold – a gift for a King

Frankincense – a gift for a Priest

Myrrh - a gift for one who would die

However, I'm not sure that the Magi understood that the baby king that they worshipped was more than a messianic king. They did not know that the one they were showering with expensive gifts was The Gift. The Gift of God to humankind.

MESSIAH: The Son of God; The Glory of God; The Gift of God

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave his One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

"I'm good." I don't need any more gifts. God and I are good.

Ephesians 2:1-3

1 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. 3 All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

You do need the Gift: Without it you are lost.

Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9

4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Grace is undeserved favor. God, in his mercy, offers you a way out of death and eternal separation.

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

I've received some gifts during the Christmas season that I would just as soon not opened—or that I later regifted. But this Gift is different! This Gift saved my soul and changed my life forever. Receive this Gift, open this Gift, trust...

You know you're ready for Christmas and eternity when you've opened THE GIFT!

Closing Application: Those that have received The Gift, are gift-givers:

- forgiveness --unconditional love
- help, meeting needs
- share the gospel – live the gospel