

12-14-25-Immanuel-The Gifts We Bring Study Guide

Overview

This message, titled "The Gifts We Bring," explores the story of the wise men (Magi) in Matthew 2:1-12. It emphasizes that their gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—were prophetic declarations of Jesus as King, God, and Sacrificial Savior. Contrasting the wise men's worship with Herod's rejection, the sermon challenges listeners to decide who Jesus is to them and to bring Him fitting "gifts" of submission, worship, and openness rather than fear, idolatry, or unbelief. The core theme: Immanuel (God with us) requires a receptive heart to experience His presence and blessing.

Reflection Questions

1. Who is Jesus to you personally—King, God, Savior, or a threat to your way of life?
2. What "gifts" have you been bringing Jesus lately (e.g. praise, devotion, anxiety, fear, unbelief)?
3. Where in your life do you see your "fleshly kingdom" resisting Jesus' lordship, like Herod did?
4. How has familiarity with Jesus (like in Nazareth) limited His work in your life?
5. Is your heart soft and receptive toward Jesus this Christmas, or hard and threatened?

Main Points

1. **The Gifts of the Magi**
 - Gold: Declares Jesus as King of Kings (royalty and honor).
 - Frankincense: Declares Jesus as God (used in temple worship, symbolizing His divinity).
 - Myrrh: Declares Jesus as Sacrificial Lamb (used for burial, foreshadowing His death).
2. **Two Responses to Jesus**
 - Wise men: Traveled far, worshiped, and brought meaningful gifts.
 - Herod: Saw Jesus as a threat and tried to kill Him.
 - Nazareth: Familiarity and unbelief limited miracles (Matthew 13:54-58).
3. **What Acknowledging Jesus Does**
 - Submits your kingdom to His (embracing lordship and transformation through discipleship).
 - Declares who God truly is in your life (rejecting idolatry).
 - Creates space for Jesus to work (faith and openness invite miracles).
4. **God's Desire**
 - He wants a broken, repentant heart (Psalm 51:16-17), not perfect gifts—simply a receptive heart that declares Him King, God, and Savior.

Application

- Declare who Jesus is to you daily (King, God, Savior).
- Repent of idolatry: Identify anything you treat as "god" and lay it down.
- Embrace discipleship: Pursue growth through Bible study, community, and obedience to transform your thinking (Romans 12:1-2).
- Give Jesus full access: Stop seeing Him as a threat; invite Him to disrupt and rule every area of your life.
- This Christmas, bring "gold, frankincense, and myrrh" by living in worship, submission, and gratitude.
- Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to soften your heart and lead despite your flesh.

Group Discussion Prompts

1. Share one of the Magi's gifts (gold, frankincense, myrrh) and what it reveals about Jesus. How does that truth impact you today?
2. Like Herod or the people of Nazareth, where have you felt Jesus threaten your "kingdom" or seem too familiar? What happened?
3. What idols (e.g., anxiety, people's opinions) are you laying "frankincense" before instead of Jesus? How can we help each other put them to death?
4. How has discipleship and transformation helped you experience Immanuel (God with you) more fully?
5. Read Matthew 2:11 aloud. What practical "gift" will you bring Jesus this week to declare He is your King, God, and Savior? Let's pray for each other.