



Sermon Discussion Questions

Sunday, December 11, 2011
Dr. Mike Moses - Huntersville
Michael Flake - Davidson
Series: Exchanging Christmas

Sermon: Gifts fit for a King

Note to Group Leaders:

This is part 3 of our series leading up to Christmas Eve. Over the time of this series, really pay attention to the "use it" section and don't skip it. Each week ask the group how they are doing applying the Scripture. The main emphasis of this series is the application.

Introduce it:

We are in the Advent Season. "Advent" is a Latin word that means "coming" and is a season practiced in Western Christianity focused on "preparing for the celebration of the coming of Jesus." In these preparations, we can feel a lot of unnecessary pressure. One of the best ways to refocus during this season is to worship. That's what Christmas is about: worshipping our King!

Share as a group your favorite Christmas songs growing up.

What are traditions you remember of singing Christmas songs when you were growing up? How about now for those of you who have children?

Read the words to this famous Christmas song:

**It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From heavens all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.**

As you read this, what words stood out to you in this song? What are the angels doing? Why are they doing this?

Worship is far more than just singing but singing is a great way to worship. Worship is about "bringing your greatest treasures to Jesus." Let's find out what our treasures are.

Revisit it: learn the passage preached on.

Read Matthew 2:1-12

Who are Magi? What do you know about them?

Why were the Magi looking for the one born to be the king of the Jews?

What do you know about King Herod? Why was he "really" looking for this same king? Why did he tell the Magi he was looking for him?

Many approach Christmas making people think they are approaching it to worship Jesus. It's interesting how HUGE this holiday has become and it's completely centered around the birth of Jesus. But what are real reasons you watch our culture looking forward to this holiday today? In other words, why are people seeking Christmas?

When the Magi found Jesus, what was their response? What did the Magi bring to Jesus? What are the words used in this passage for what they brought?

Worship is "bringing your greatest treasures to Jesus." What were the Magi's greatest treasures? What was Herod's greatest treasure that kept him from worshipping Jesus?

In Davidson, this quote was shared, "What invigorates you? What causes you to wake up before dawn with a new idea spinning in your mind? What fuels your imagination, even when you are fatigued? Here is where you will find your most valued treasure."

After reading this quote, what comes to mind for you? What are your most valued treasures?

Worship is "bringing your greatest treasures to Jesus." In what ways can you bring this treasure to Jesus? It could mean that your greatest treasure is a deep sin that Jesus wants you to bring to him and for you to know he has died for it. It could be a great skill that he wants you to use for his kingdom purposes.

Use it: don't just learn the passage but use it.

Practically bring these gifts to Jesus. As a group, answer these questions about each person's gifts. Use this time as a group to brainstorm for each person.

- 1) How will bringing your gift to Jesus give credit to God and not you?
- 2) In what ways does will your gift follow God's principles? In what ways has it not?
- 3) How can your gift help those in need?
- 4) Worship with this gift this Christmas by bowing-doing one act of worship with your gift on Christmas day. What could that act be?

Remember it: memorize a verse that helps you to remember and use it.

Memorize Matthew 2:11b

"Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh."

Write this on a piece of paper and put it on your mirror and in your car. Share this verse with your children to help them begin thinking about their own gifts! Begin now helping them celebrate Christmas differently this year.