

# Thinking About Gifts





➤ It's a gift-giving time of year!





# ➤ A passage about gifts for Jesus: Matthew 2:1-12



# Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

*\*All Scriptures from 1995 New American Standard*

# Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>2</sup> “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

# Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

# Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>4</sup> Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

# Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>5</sup> They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.’”



# Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared.

<sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”

# Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>9</sup> After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was.

<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

# Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>11</sup> After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

# Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>12</sup> And having been warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.





# What Christians Have Seen in Those Gifts...

# Matthew 2:11

<sup>11</sup> After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.





# What Christians Have Seen in Those Gifts...

1) The first gift (gold) reminds us of  
Christ's royalty.

# 1 Kings 10:21

<sup>21</sup> All King Solomon's drinking vessels *were* of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon *were* of pure gold. None was of silver; it was not considered valuable in the days of Solomon.



## Isaiah 9:6-7

<sup>6</sup> For a child will be born to us, a son  
will be given to us;  
And the government will rest on His  
shoulders;  
And His name will be called Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

## Isaiah 9:6-7

<sup>7</sup> There will be no end to the increase  
of *His* government or of peace,  
On the throne of David and over his  
kingdom,  
To establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and righteousness  
From then on and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will  
accomplish this.

# Revelation 17:14

<sup>14</sup> These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him *are the* called and chosen and faithful.”



# What Christians Have Seen in Those Gifts...

2) The second gift (frankincense)  
reminds us of Christ's priesthood.



## Exodus 30:34-35

<sup>34</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Take for yourself spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, spices with pure frankincense; there shall be an equal part of each.

<sup>35</sup> With it you shall make incense, a perfume, the work of a perfumer, salted, pure, *and* holy.

# Zechariah 6:12-13

<sup>12</sup> Then say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, “Behold, a man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the LORD.

# Zechariah 6:12-13

<sup>13</sup> Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the LORD, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.””

# Hebrews 7:25-27

<sup>25</sup> Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

# Hebrews 7:25-27

<sup>26</sup> For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;

## Hebrews 7:25-27

<sup>27</sup> who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.





# What Christians Have Seen in Those Gifts...

3) The third gift (myrrh) reminds us of  
Christ's death.

# Mark 15:23

<sup>22</sup> Then they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull.

<sup>23</sup> They tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh; but He did not take it.

## John 19:39

<sup>39</sup> Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds *weight*.

## Isaiah 53:5,7

<sup>5</sup> But He was pierced through for our transgressions,  
He was crushed for our iniquities;  
The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him,  
And by His scourging we are healed.

# Isaiah 53:5,7

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and He was afflicted,  
Yet He did not open His mouth;  
Like a lamb that is led to slaughter,  
And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers,  
So He did not open His mouth.

# 1 John 3:16

<sup>16</sup> We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.



# The Most Important Gifts

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➤ Jesus Himself was the greatest gift.

# John 3:16-17

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

# The Most Important Gifts



➤ In return, we give Him our lives.

# Romans 12:1

<sup>1</sup> Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.



Christ's gift must be accepted,



# What Must I Do To Be Saved?

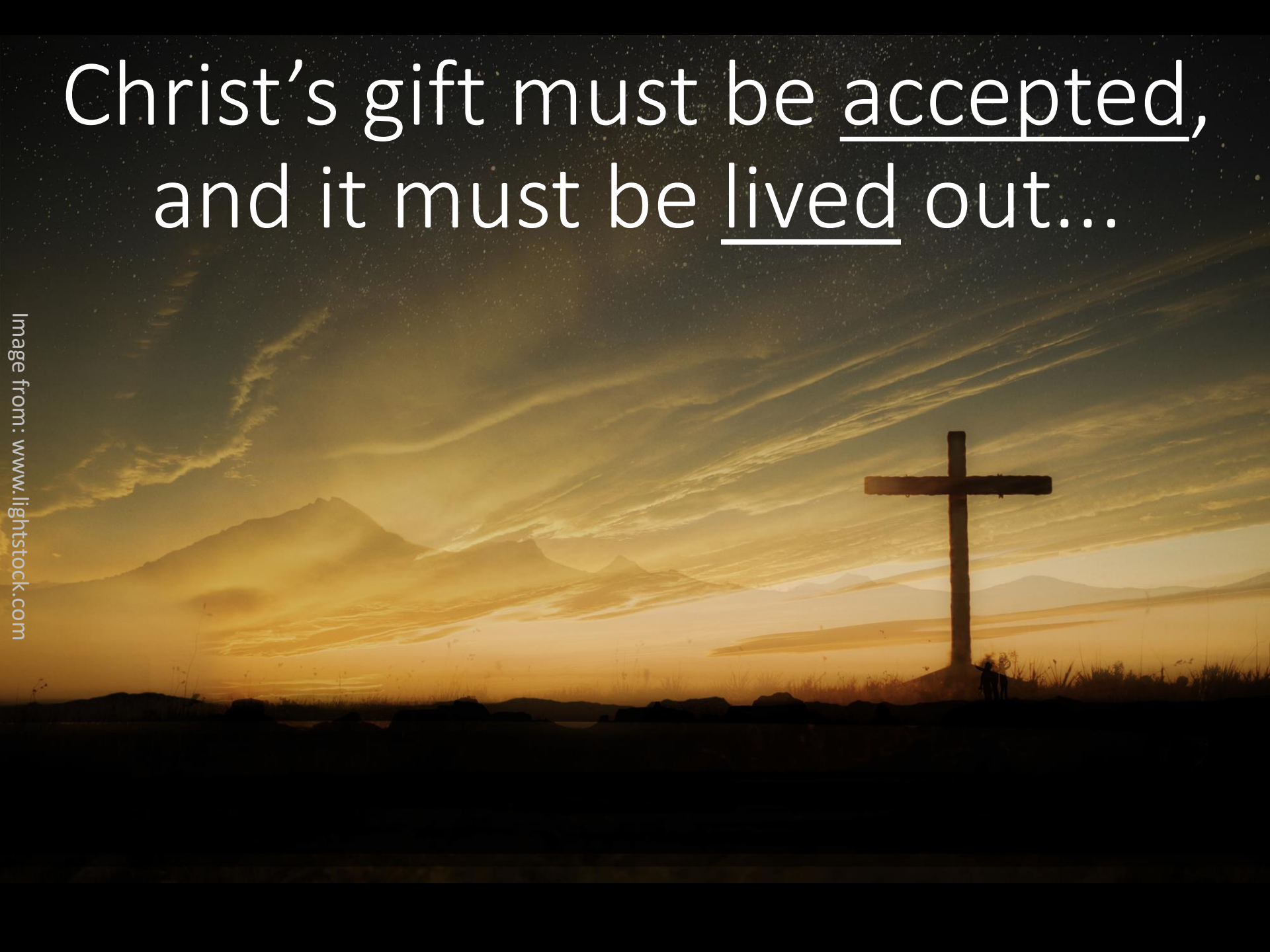


# Acts 2:37-38

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”

<sup>38</sup> Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Christ's gift must be accepted,  
and it must be lived out...





# James 5:16

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.