

## **The Wise Men: Wisely Fulfilling the Christmas Season**

Matthew 2:1-12

**Context:** After introducing Jesus as the promised king and Messiah through his genealogy in Chapter 1, Matthew now begins his Gospel with wise men from the east who have come to worship the newborn King of the Jews.

### **To Wisely Fulfill the Christmas season:...**

#### **I. \_\_\_\_\_ and worship Jesus (vs. 1-2, 11)**

- a. There are a lot of theories about the origins of the Magi. One of the strongest is from the book of Daniel. 1. Daniel saves the Magi of Babylon (Daniel 2:24) 2. Daniel ruled over the Magi and had influence over them (Daniel 2:48).
- b. The story of the wise men teaches us that this baby born in Bethlehem would be a gift for people from all nations.

#### **II. \_\_\_\_\_ to the needs of others (vs. 11a)**

- a. The Magi presented gifts to Mary and Joseph. Gold symbolized royalty; frankincense was a fragrance; myrrh was an embalming ointment of death also used in fragrances.
- b. There is evidence in the Gospels that Mary and Joseph were poor (see their offering to the temple in Luke 2:24). These gifts provided the financial resources for Mary and Joseph's flight to Egypt.
- c. As you go throughout the Christmas season, what ways can you assist others in need at this time?

#### **III. \_\_\_\_\_ to God's directions (vs. 6, 10, 12)**

- a. All throughout this passage, the Magi are following God's clear directions. God leads them through scripture (vs. 6), the star (vs. 10), and in a dream (vs. 12)
- b. In each case, the Magi submitted to the directions of God. Are you submitting to God's directions for your life?