

## How Much Are You Spending On...?

**How much are you spending on each Christmas present this year?** Most people have that kind of conversation and the amount depends more upon who you are giving the gift to than the gift. For instance you might not spend that much on your boss or your employees. Your kids are a different matter as is your strange uncle from your mom's side of the family. Then there is your spouse. That is a tricky proposition and usually here price is not the issue. What you spend depends upon the importance of the person you are giving the gift to.

In the end we can simply fall back on the old adage that it is the thought that counts. Tell that to a kid who gets socks for Christmas!

What you pay for a gift does say volumes. Giving gifts at Christmas goes all the way back to the first Christmas. Matthew records that Magi came and gave gifts to baby Jesus. To make a long story short Magi were essentially the smart elite people of Jesus day. They also must have been well off given the gifts they gave.

It is recorded that they gave gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold right now sells for about \$1,200 an ounce. We don't know what gold sold for an ounce back in Jesus day but you can be sure it was expensive and only held by very wealthy people. Frankincense would have cost \$500 per pound. Myrrh would have cost \$4,000 per pound. All three would have been at the top of any dream or wish list for Christmas. The point is the Magi gave the best to the best! The cost of their gift says everything.

Every week during our services we take up an offering to support the work of Jesus through this church. Some might not view it as worship but as we have seen from Matthew chapter two, giving truly is worship. What gift will you give today to worship Jesus? You need not worry that your gift is not expensive like the Magi's. In fact if you will remember Jesus once praised a widow who gave the smallest of gifts. She won praise because that gift for her was one of great sacrifice. Gifts given in sacrifice and from a heart of praise and worship are always acceptable to our Lord.

So this morning as our usher come forward consider that your gift shows the importance you place on the joy that is ours in the birth of a Savior.