

The Magi's Gifts

One of the classic Christmas Carol's is "We Three Kings." We love to sing that song about the three wise men that traveled to worship the newborn King, Jesus. You may even have a nativity scene in your house with three kings on knees worshiping the baby Jesus. A lot of what we sing about these men and even our nativity displays are simply legend not quite based upon fact. The Bible calls these men Magi, a word for learned men from east of Jerusalem. So down through time, they have been called Magi, Wise Men and Kings.

We really have no evidence that they were kings, and it's not certain there were only three of them. While it might ruin your nativity, it seems that these wise men were not present at the manger where Jesus was born but came to visit him much later as the Scripture says they came to visit him in a house. While there is a lot of conjecture about who these men were and even where they came from we can be certain that they existed.

The story of the Magi is grounded in Scripture. Matthew 2 tells us the story of the Magi, wise men from the east who had seen the star of Bethlehem and wanted to worship the newborn king. One thing that we know for sure is that they brought expensive gifts with them. Matthew 2:11 says, "On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." All three of these gifts were costly and highly valued. In essence, the wise men in worshipping Jesus gave gifts to befit a true king.

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 what gift you can give today that will be one of worship for the joy that is ours in the birth of a Savior.