

What Gifts Do You Bring?

by Wayne Goff

Gift-giving and receiving are synonymous with Christmas, whether or not you observe it religiously. It is a wonderful sentiment. It is great when it is given thoughtfully. Very often the **gift** reflects the **heart** of the **giver**. With that in mind consider the “**gifts**” of the wise men when they visited the newborn Jesus:

“...Gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (**Matt. 2:11**). Impressive gifts of (1) monetary value, (2) pure incense for worship, and (3) medicinal substance. All of these were typical gifts given to kings and the pagan gods. It symbolized their deep reverence and respect for the One who “*has been born King of the Jews*” (**Matt. 2:2**). Indeed, they had come to worship Him!

So when you come to the House of Worship, to the very Throne Room of Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords, what **gifts** do you bring? The answer should *always* be gifts which Jesus prefers and which are suitable to His character and being! The poor widow gave all that she had — two mites (**Lk. 21:1-2**) — and Jesus was impressed and honored! **Value**, *in the eyes of the Lord*, comes more from the **heart** than from the appearance. After all, one cannot *literally* or *figuratively* out give God! Jesus reminded the Jews of His day, “*If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!*” (**Matt. 7:11**).

Giving of our financial means is a great gift of pure and undefiled religion, **James 1:27**. It is similar in kind to the undeserved gifts which God gives to us — eternal life (**Rom. 6:23**), spiritual gifts that bring to us the perfect New Testament (**1 Cor. 12**), and the “*gifts*” of apostles, pastors, teachers (**Eph. 4:8-11**). So what is the best gift you can give to Jesus? Yourself.

“*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart — these, O God, You will not despise,*” **Psalms 51:17**.

365101