

## WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

Friday, December 5

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

**Matthew 2:11** *On coming to the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

The wise men or Magi have always fascinated me. Probably because most Christmas songs and pictures get them wrong. The Bible does not tell us how many wise men came, only that they present three expensive gifts. They were not kings but royal advisors to the kings of the East. And they did not find Jesus in the manger but in a house. It was at least several months if not years after His birth. I often wonder what they did when they got home to their own country? Did they continue their quest to discover who this Child was that they had worshipped?

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh / Come, peasant, king to own Him  
The King of kings salvation brings / Let loving hearts enthrone Him  
Raise, raise a song on high / The virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born / The Babe, the Son of Mary*

The last verse of ‘What Child is This?’ does not ask us any questions but instructs us in what we should do now that we know WHO this Child is and WHY He came.

(1) We are to worship Him by GIVING. The wise men gave Him their best – gold, incense, and myrrh. These were not leftovers from their stash of riches, but expensive gifts that would cost them dearly. And yet today, many Christians are satisfied with giving Jesus the ‘leftovers’ of their lives. They put in as little effort as possible in their service and give just as little of their resources. Christ has given us everything – He gave His life so that we might have salvation! It is a tragedy that so many believers fail to offer Him their best in return.

(2) We are to worship Him with our PRAISE. This verse instructs us, like Mary, to “raise a song on high.” Luke 1 records her song of praise after the angel tells her she will be the mother of the King of kings (Luke 1:46-56; more on this next week). But Luke also records quieter acts of praise by Mary: “But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2:19). Our praise should be both external and internal. It should include lifting up His name with our voices and reverencing Him in our hearts.

(3) We are to worship Him by giving Him our HEARTS. How do we “enthroned” Christ in our hearts? It means that Jesus is ruling our lives. He is on the throne instead of our desires or will. We do this by obeying from the heart (Romans 6:17), believing from the heart (Romans 10:9-10), and giving from the heart (2 Corinthians 9:7). We set our hearts on the things of God and not earthly things (Colossians 3:1-4). Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts and sing with gratitude in your hearts to God (Colossians 3:15-16).

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.