

**WHAT ARE YOU GETTING FOR CHRISTMAS?
MATTHEW 2:1-12 / 12-20-20 / AM**

I. FIRST, WE SHOULD GIVE MORE THAN WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE.

- A. When the wisemen came to see Jesus they knew they weren't coming to a "gift exchange"—2:1-2 & 11.
- B. I've heard of situations where hard feelings developed in families—Acts 20:35.

II. SECOND, WE SHOULD GIVE OUT OF LOVE NOT OBLIGATION.

- A. Sometimes we give gifts to certain people because they may give us one.
- B. The wisemen gave gifts to Jesus, however, not out of obligation.
 - 1. First, their gifts were an act of worship--2:11a.

Matthew 2:11

11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.....

- 2. Second, their gifts were a natural result of their worship--2:11b.

Matthew 2:11

.....they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts.....

- C. Similarly, we should give our tithes and offerings to God for the same reasons--2 Cor. 9:7.

III. THIRD, WE SHOULD GIVE WORTHY GIFTS.

- A. At office or church Christmas parties we sometimes play a game called, "White Elephant Gifts" or "Dirty Santa".
- B. These wisemen didn't give Jesus "White Elephant Gifts", though.
 - 1. Gold was a gift for a king.
 - 2. Incense was a gift for a priest because it was used in worship.
 - 3. Myrrh, used for embalming, was a gift for someone who would die.
- C. Why we give gifts is just as important as what we give.