



W I S E M E N

**Wise Men: Honor Him**

**TJ Callaway, Associate Teaching Pastor**

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**Matthew 2:1-11** [The Message]

<sup>1-2</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod’s kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, “Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We’re on pilgrimage to worship him.”

<sup>3-4</sup> When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

<sup>5-6</sup> They told him, “Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly.

<sup>7-8</sup> Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, “Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I’ll join you at once in your worship.”

<sup>9-10</sup> Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

<sup>11</sup> They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts:  
**gold, frankincense, myrrh.**

**Besides family, food, and traveling a major pressure we feel this time of year is**

\_\_\_\_\_!

**What is the perfect gift?**

\_\_\_\_\_ what you’ve always  
\_\_\_\_\_ but never knew \_\_\_\_\_.

Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh? What strange gifts.  
But...

Is it possible Mary and Joseph didn't know they  
\_\_\_\_\_ the gifts until they \_\_\_\_\_ it?

*Is it possible that the **perfect gift** from God is a gift no one expected but so happened to be what was needed the most?*

**Luke 4:14-22**

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the **poor**.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the **prisoners**  
and recovery of sight for the **blind**,  
to set the **oppressed** free,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, "**Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.**"

<sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this **Joseph's son**?" they asked.

**John 4:10**

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the **gift of God** and **who** it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you **living water.**"

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**The Perfect Gift:**

Matthew 1:23, "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "**God with us**").

**Who would have thought the Perfect Gift was**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?