**The Gift #4:  "Jesus Is The Object of Our Worship.”**

**12/18/22**

***Advent*** means: “arrival” or “an appearing or coming into place.”

*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod,*

***Magi****from the east* ***came to Jerusalem******2****and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?* Matthew 2:1-2

***2****… We saw* ***his star****when it rose and have come to* ***worship*** *him.”* Matthew 2:2

***3****When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.****4****When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.* Matthew 2:3-4

***5****“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:* ***6****“‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.* Matthew 2:5-6

***7****Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.****8****He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”* Matthew 2:7-8

***9****After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.****10****When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.* Matthew 2:9-10

Mark 5:9-10

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***11****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****,* ***frankincense*** *and* ***myrrh****.* Matt 2:11

*Worship*. Gk**.** proskuneo (pros-koo-neh'-o); to bow down or kneel, to fall flat, to do reverence, to adore, to worship.

***Gold.*** Gold is a precious metal and as such was a valuable commodity.

**Bible scholars:** The gift of gold to the Christ child was **symbolic of His divinity—God in flesh.**

***Frankincense*:** Frankincense is a white resin or gum. It is obtained from a tree by making incisions in the bark and allowing the gum to flow out.

Symbolic of Jesus’ willingness to become a sacrifice, wholly giving Himself up as a burnt offering.

**Bible scholars:** Symbolized Priestly Nature Jesus—High Priest.

***Myrrh***. Myrrh - product of Arabia, from a tree in the same manner as frankincense. **Spice** and was used in **embalming**.

**Bible scholars:** Symbolizes bitterness, suffering, and affliction.

***12****And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.* Matthew 2:12

**The Magi:**

\_ read and **believed** God’s Word \_ **sought** Jesus

\_ recognized the **worth** of Christ \_ **humbled** themselves to worship

\_ **obeyed** God rather than man

**Closing Thought:** Considering Who Christ Is, What He has done, What He will DO, Let’s Bring Him Our Greatest Gift: Ourselves as a LIVING Sacrifice.

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to* ***offer your bodies as living sacrifices****, holy and pleasing to God-this is your* ***spiritual act of worship****.* Romans 12:1