

THE PERFECT GIFT OF LOVE Matthew 2

The visit of the Magi, also known as Wise Men, occurred up to two years after the birth of Jesus. They were powerful men from Babylon full of knowledge about such topics as astronomy, mathematics, history and religion including portions of the Old Testament. This position of magi is noted in Daniel 1:20 and 2:24 where God's servant Daniel excelled above them. In Matthew 2, they are seeking Jesus as the newborn King of the Jews—the Messiah who would come to fulfill God's promise to rescue and restore God's people.

Isaiah 55:6 says, *"I love those who love Me; And those who diligently seek Me will find Me."* And Jeremiah 29:13 writes, *"Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near."* We too need to seek Jesus while we have the opportunity. The Magi were seeking Christ and when they discovered Him fell before Him in loving worship. They represent the first Gentile believers to honor Christ as King. Their actions show the good news that Jesus came to save not only Israel, but also that *"Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising."* (Isaiah 60:3)

Their 3 gifts can point us to the qualities of Christ and why Wise Men still seek Him today:

Gold:

- God's Temple was full of gold as it reflected His deity, perfection and purity.
- God offers us a perfect and valuable kind of love.
- *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* Romans 5:8
- *"We love, because He first loved us."* 1 John 4:19
- **God's love for you is unconditional not based on your performance or position.**

Incense:

- A fragrance used in a wedding by the bride for the groom. Song of Solomon 3:6
- Jesus' life on earth attracted many through His love and kind heart toward people.
- *"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved..."*
2 Corinthians 2:14-16
- **God's love for you is attractive and inviting when you know Jesus Christ.**

Myrrh:

- An anointing oil at birth and death.
- Jesus was born for one reason, to die on the cross as payment for our sins. Anointing the baby Jesus with myrrh pointed toward His future death and resurrection.
- *"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."* John 15:12-13
- **God's love for you is sacrificial and costly so you can be forgiven and given a new life in Christ.**

What are you seeking this Christmas?

***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."* John 3:16**

Digging Deeper:

Advent means coming or arrival. This is a season of remembering the first coming and longing for the second coming of Jesus. The **circle of the wreath** reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The **green of the wreath** speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. **Candles** symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. The **four outer candles** represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Jesus Christ. The **center candle** is called the Christ's Candle and is not lit until it's actually Christmas. Read the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2 to remember the good news of Christmas.

Highlights of ways to grow in your faith in 2018 as we follow Jesus together:

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join us for Sunday morning worship at Calvary. Next Sunday, we'll have a special One Service Sunday to end 2017 and kick off the New Year on December 31 at 10:00am. And beginning January 7, we'll be back to our worship times of 9:00am & 11:00am, starting our new series *The Good News of Mark*, exploring who Jesus is and His life-changing invitation to "Come, Follow Me".

There are also great programs available for kids, as we partner with families to see the next generation have a vibrant life in Jesus. Find out more at calvarylife.org/sundays

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Each Wednesday also features amazing ministries for Nursery up to High School, plus these great options for adults:

Experience the Bible - January 10, 17, 24, 31 · 7:00 pm · Chapel

Discover the joy of studying the Bible in this new Life Class by Pastor David Mitchell. By applying simple and specific study methods to any Bible passage, you too can uncover the timeless principles that will guide your life.

calvarylife.org/classes

Jewish Apologetics - January 10, 17, 24, 31 · 7:00 pm · Fellowship Hall

How does Israel fit into the Second Coming of Jesus? What about the Jewish people? Can we predict with certainty when the world will end? Learn more about Messiah and how God intends to keep His promises to Israel and the world.

calvarylife.org/classes

Alpha - February 7, 14, 21, 28 · March 7, 14, 21, 28 · 7:00 pm · W - Lobby

Come to dinner on February 4th at 6:30 pm in the Worship Center Lobby and hear a talk answering these questions: "Is there more to life than this? Christianity: boring, untrue and irrelevant?" calvarylife.org/alpha

Celebrate Recovery - Wednesdays nights · 6:00 pm · S-6

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered twelve-step program and a ministry of Calvary Church of Santa Ana. We are a safe haven where people who are hurting can experience hope and healing in a Christian community. calvarylife.org/cr



CONNECT.GROW.REACH
1010 N. Tustin Ave. | Santa Ana | CA

phn | 714.973.4800
web | calvarylife.org