



CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL
WEEK FOUR: PLAN

Gift to the King of All Kings

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 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. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"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." Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 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."

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. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

-Matthew 2:1-12

As a child, I grew up in a family who loved everything about Christmas. It was always a time of joy, giving, remembering and honoring. It was important to my parents to give Christmas gifts that were thoughtful, with each person's interests, needs and desires carefully considered. They set an example of generosity, not just with things, but more importantly each gift was intentional. They spent time thinking about us, talking to us, listening to us. They couldn't afford to give extravagant things, so they gave us something better - they gave generously of their time. Every gift carried a story of their love for us.

The three magi studied the stars and the ancient prophecies, risked their lives to take an arduous journey across the desert, and dealt with the murderous King Herod - all to give their gifts to the newborn King, to honor and worship Him. Who ever heard of kings worshiping another king? These wisest of all wise men wanted to give their best gift to Christ.

Prayer

Today, maybe you're drawn to follow the wise men's example of giving a gift to Christ? We give Christmas gifts to many people, but may forget to give one to Jesus. Follow the magi's example, worship Jesus, tell Him what you want to give to him from your heart.

Pray from your heart for the people you know who do not know Jesus, to come to know Him and desire to give their hearts to Him. It and is the best gift you can give them.

