



WEEK 1: GOLD - THE GIFT FOR A KING

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

Matthew 2:1-2 (ESV)

The significance of the gifts:

- Gold: Jesus is the _____.
- Frankincense: Jesus is the _____.
- Myrrh: Jesus is the _____.

The gift of gold: Jesus is the _____.

Three Responses to King Jesus:

1. Herod _____ Jesus as king.

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet...”

Matthew 2:3-5 (ESV)

2. The chief priests _____ Jesus as king.

They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

*‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.’”*

Matthew 2:5-6 (ESV)

3. The wise men _____ Jesus as king.

After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:9-11 (ESV)

Discussion Questions::

1. What would it mean for Jesus to be the King of your life? Is there an area where you feel you're not letting Jesus be King? What can you do to change that?
2. The chief priests were dismissive of the significance of Jesus' arrival. Is there a way that you feel you've been dismissive of the birth of Jesus at Christmas over the years? How could you change that this year?
3. The wise men immediately worshiped Jesus as king. How can you incorporate worship into your experience of Christmas this year?

Recommended Resources:

- *In the Manger*, by Max Lucado
- *The Purpose of Christmas*, by Rick Warren
- *Hidden Christmas*, by Timothy Keller

ESV (English Standard Version)

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Matthew 2:1-2 (ESV)

The significance of the gifts:

- Gold: Jesus is the KING.
- Frankincense: Jesus is the HIGH PRIEST.
- Myrrh: Jesus is the SACRIFICE.

The gift of gold: Jesus is the KING.

Three Responses to King Jesus:

1. Herod OPPOSED Jesus as king.

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet..."

Matthew 2:3-5 (ESV)

2. The chief priests DISMISSED Jesus as king.

They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

*'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
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Matthew 2:5-6 (ESV)

3. The wise men WORSHIPED Jesus as king.

After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

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1. What would it mean for Jesus to be the King of your life? Is there an area where you feel you're not letting Jesus be King? What can you do to change that?
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