

Epiphany –(Greater gifts) We Three Kings

Text: Matthew 2: 1-12

**Introduction: Xmas Pageant – 3 Kings, Burger King Crowns
And velour bathrobes. Strange collection of bottles and
boxes,**

Gifts on the way to the manger to “We Three Kings”

What we think we know about the Three Kings.

Tradition: Names given:

Gaspar – King of Tarsus – small chest of frankincense

Melchior – King of Arabia. Persia, or Nubia – Gold

Balthasar – King of Ethiopia – Flask of Myrrh

POINT BEING (1) Jesus is King of Kings (2) We therefore

Give gifts following their example

**The sanitized version threatens no one’s peace of
mind**

NOT BIBLICAL!

What the Bible tells us about the Three Kings.

Matthew calls them “Wise Men” Not Kings – Astrologers

3 gifts but not how many givers DO NOT KNOW

Names unknown Nor where they came from.

NOT ALL KINGS BOWED TO JESUS – Herod “Kill the babies.

We like to feel good, video the drama, ENTERTAINMENT

***TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE REAL COST OF HONORING
THE KING OF KINGS. EPIPHANY – 12 DAYS – DELAY THE
TRIP Emphasized**

**The Real cost of honoring the king of Kings? What were
their real**

Costs of Honoring the King of Kings?

What were the real gifts they gave?

I. The wise men gave THEIR TIME.

The gifts of the Magi are celebrated 12 days after xmas to remind us
It took TIME for the wise men to see the star and make their way
To Jerusalem & Bethlehem.

**TIME to study O.T. prophecy – contemplate significance and
Cross the desert.**

**Not a 30-min break in a tour of the Holy Land – Not
Sandwiched between a soccer practice and an orthodontist apt.
A rare commitment today “QUALITY TIME”**

**A rare treasure – rarer than gold, Frankincense, and myrrh
“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Mt. 6:21)**

Price of gifts not important – it’s the face-to-face encounter!

The SON OF GOD – Wise men had no greater gift.

THEIR TIME WAS THEIR GIFT!

**“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your
heart.”(Jer. 29:13)**

How much time are you willing to give to the King of Kings?

II. The wise men gave their SECURITY.

Travel was a dangerous endeavor in the ancient world. Scorpions, Wild animals, danger of getting lost or dying of thirst. Robbers, Slave traders – (no cell service or GPS)

Great risks to see the redeemer - Herod mad at them

Much safer to stay at home

Paul was willing to suffer the loss of all things. (Phil. 3:7-11)

v. 8 “I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my lord...”

More Christians martyred in the last 100 years than all previous!

WHAT WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO RISK?

III. The wise men gave their DEVOTION.

Saw Child. Fell Down, worshipped Him, opened their treasures, and offered gifts to Him.

Revelation 4: 8b;10b-11 Revelation describes throngs around The Throne of God doing what the Magi did -Hymn of Praise:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, IS THE Lord God Almighty, Who was, And is, and is to come....You are worthy, our Lord and God, To receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

Conclusion: 2 Samuel 23: 13-17 David wanted water to drink

from the well at Bethlehem. Three men sneaked behind the enemy

lines to get the water. David would not drink it but poured it out

as a sacrifice to God – because the blood of men who risked to get

it. The Water was priceless. But far better the devotion of those

who gave it!!!