

## WISE GIVERS

## Matthew 2:1-15

Int: The visit of these star-led sages is significant because they were the first men to give gifts to the Lord Jesus. From the Magi Christians can learn a lot about wise giving. A wise giver

### PREPARES HIS GIFTS

The Magi did. They would not slight the little Lord with cheap trinkets picked up from a roadside peddler. Nothing but the best would do for him. The gifts they brought were not last-minute afterthoughts but costly items planned long beforehand.

Were the gifts you gave Jesus this Christmas cheap compared to what you gave family and friends? Are the gifts you bring him weekly or monthly just leftovers? If you do not plan and prepare your gifts to him they will be poor indeed.

A wise giver prepares his gifts.

### PROTECTS HIS GIFTS

The Magi did. They refused to use for their own these treasures they prepared for the little King and jealously guarded them against loss and bandits.

Bandits and robbers still roam at large and operate freely.

A bandit called *pleasure* demands that you give him money marked for Jesus.

Another wears the name *need* and claims the Lord's gifts for himself.

A thief called *carelessness* steals away gifts meant for the Lord.

A wise giver protects his gifts.

### PRESENTS HIS GIFTS TO JESUS

The Magi did. Their gifts were meant for Jesus and to him they gave them.

Wise giving goes beyond giving to a church, a cause, a collection, or from custom or out of concern about what others might think.

A wise giver presents his gifts to Jesus.

### PROVIDES FOR JESUS' NEEDS WITH HIS GIFTS

The Magi did. They could not know that Herod would try to kill the young King to protect his throne. (He killed his favorite wife Miriam and three of his own sons because he thought they were conspiring to do away with him and take his crown.) But the Father in heaven knew Herod's heart and warned Joseph to take the holy family to Egypt for safety. How were they to finance their flight from Herod? Without question the gifts of the Magi paid for the trip.

It is what givers give to Jesus that enables him to go where he wishes and do what he wants. There is now no need for him to get to Egypt but he has other places to go, other people to reach and other purposes to carry out. How tragic that he cannot because his people bring him no worthy gifts!

A wise giver brings to Jesus gifts he can use to do his business throughout the world.

Con: Join this circle of wise givers. Plan, protect, and present to him worthy gifts so he can carry out his mission in this world!