



Mighty in the Word

*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).*

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

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*of the
Lord
Jesus Christ*

They Offered Him Gifts

It was with great expectation and desire that the Wisemen travelled far to offer the King of kings their gifts. Advent is a time of looking for the coming of the King of kings, to come that we might behold His glory as those of whom St. John on the Isle of Patmos wrote in Revelation Seven.

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb (Rev 7.9, 10).

Oh, the gift offered unto the King of kings in Revelation Seven is written so powerfully that I long to be there, to be present and offer unto Him praise and worship and glory and honor as Psalm 29 states:

<A Psalm of David.> Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength.

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness (Ps 29.1, 2).

Reading the Word of the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus reminds me how much like "The Little Drummer Boy" I am; I have no gift to bring. When in the presence of the King of kings, one can only walk humbly as one realizes their nothingness, their sinfulness. But, praise the Lord, we can offer ourselves unto Him, our lives, as He invites us to repent of our sins and to receive Him in our lives and change us into His likeness (II Cor 3.18).

I am reminded of Isaiah Six where the Lord revealed His glory and the seraphims cried one unto another, "Holy, holy, holy, [is] the LORD of hosts: the whole earth [is] full of his glory." It was then Isaiah cried out to the Lord:

Woe [is] me! for I am undone; because I [am] a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, [which] he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

And he laid [it] upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged (Isa 6.5-7).

worship Him and Him alone as was given us (Ex 20.4-7),

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness [of any thing] that [is] in heaven above, or that [is] in the earth beneath, or that [is] in the water under the earth:

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God [am] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation] of them that hate me;

And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

People of God in Christ Jesus, let us labor for Him until the Lord comes again for His own. Let us walk as the body of Christ in Acts 2 who came together to be in the Word daily and break bread together that we shall be encouraged to go through what lies before us. Pray one for another.

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

I am also reminded of the chorus of the hymn, "Here I am, Lord. Is it I? I have heard Thee calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart."

This was Isaiah's response to the Lord in Isaiah Six when Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

Isaiah responded in verse seven with, "Here am I; send me." Are we ready to offer ourselves unto the Lord for Him to use us as He directs, as He chooses?

It seems the Wisemen were so willing, so ready to lay their lives before the Lord to be used as He directed – caring not where it would lead. It does not seem that they had any motive behind offering to the Lord themselves and walking in obedience to His call upon their lives. Have you ever wondered what the purpose was for the Lord to call the Wisemen to stop whatever it was they were doing in their homeland and go to Bethlehem where the King of kings was born? What was the purpose? Do we read that they were to take over some big position in life?

It *seems* they were to go to Bethlehem and offer their gifts, lay their lives before the King of kings – and return another way to their homeland, possibly a longer journey home – and all for their safety. Why? We know nothing more of their journey, of their work, their ministry. We know nothing more about them. Did they arrive safely back in their homeland? What did they do that was so great? They just went to Bethlehem, offered the King, who lived in poor circumstances, gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What was their purpose in life? Did they miss something big that the Lord had for them? Some large ministry?

Or was the ministry, they had, to reach out and touch the lives of some on their way to the King of kings, such as King Herod – who sought to kill Baby Jesus by killing all the children from two years and under as he commanded the soldiers to kill Jesus? Were their gifts of precious gold, frankincense, and myrrh that provided for the safekeeping of Baby Jesus – their ministry?

Or, contrary to the thinking process today, were they ministered to out of their obedience to the Lord God to follow the star – not knowing where it was, but trusting the Lord to lead them to wherever they might go and whatever it was that the Lord had for them. Was it that the Lord wanted to minister unto them, to touch their lives and change them forever that they might return home, though another way, to minister to those in their family, their community, their homeland – and possibly some on their return journey?

When we open our gifts, truly open them before the King of kings, we may be powerfully touched as we find that the Lord is reaching out to us, that we have nothing to offer the Lord, Himself; but He has much He wants to do for us that we might walk in obedience to His calling upon our lives and for His glory.

I think of the hymn,

Freely, Freely ye have received;
Freely, Freely give.

Go in My Name and because you believe,
Others will know that I live.

Returning to their homeland another way was not planned. I believe their hearts and their minds were so deeply focused as they made their journey to the Christ Child that thinking of returning to their homeland another way was not in reach of their thoughts. I believe they were so drawn to the call they had to make the journey, the joy of seeing the King of kings, that there was no room for doubts, for even thinking that an earthly king would be so vile and violently against the King of kings – and against any whose hearts were turned to the young child.

And, yet, in all of this that was taking place, the order to kill all the children from two years of age and under, never deterred their walk of obedience to the King of kings. I do not believe they had any doubts about having been in the presence of the living God. I do not believe they hesitated to take another way home though they most likely had no time to study it and plan for it as perhaps they had when making the journey to the Christ Child.

Reflecting on this experience of the Wisemen causes me to search my heart. What about you? Would I have desired to go with the Wise-men had I lived in their country? Would I have stepped out in faith for such a long and arduous journey? How would I have reacted had I made a two year journey to see the King of kings – only to see the physical surroundings, the physical environment in which He lived? Would I have thought I had made a mistake in judgment to make the trip? Would I have thought that I had not heard the Lord calling me to make the trip? Would I have given some excuse for making the journey, that someone must have said something that caused me to make such a big mistake in my life? Would I have thought it was wasted time, effort, and money? Would it have discouraged me in my desire to see the King of kings – believing that there would have been evidence in the surroundings in which He lived to show He was truly a king? Would I have thought like the world thinks? Oh! would I have taken the broad way that leads to destruction and perhaps aligned with the world when things did not go as I thought they should have?

Oh, may the Lord forgive me for the times I fail to see what the Lord, the King of kings, wants me to see because I am focused on the world's understanding of ministry, the world's understanding of life, the world's ways which lead to destruction. Oh, may I walk the *Via Dolorosa* with the Lord, the straight and narrow way and walk in faith in the Lord laying my life before Him daily. I think of Proverbs 3,5,6 and how weak my faith is, my trust in the King of kings.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths (Pro 3,5, 6).

My heart cries out to see the King of kings and worship Him and lay my life before Him – knowing we are in hard times, as we are a people who have walked in our own ways, have walked in disobedience to the Lord God Almighty's commands to