

Recapturing Christmas

Gifts

December 4, 2016 / Dan Solofra

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² 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." **Matthew 2:1-2, NIV**

Recapturing Christmas begins with a desire to worship God by _____ and _____.

³ When King Herod heard this he was **disturbed**, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ 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. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ " '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.'" **Matthew 2:3-6, NIV**

We set ourselves up for disappointment with gifts when we:

- Forget a gift is _____.
- Set our hearts on a gift we aren't going to _____.
- Expect a gift to bring _____.

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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." **Matthew 2:7-9, NIV**

No one can take the _____ for you.

³ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴ And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. **Genesis 4:3-5, NIV**

Gifts are a _____ into the _____ of the giver.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ 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.** ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. **Matthew 2:10-12, NIV**

_____ is a window into God's heart.

In Jesus we see God's _____ and his _____.

Gold, frankincense and myrrh were a window into the heart of the _____. They worshiped King Jesus in _____.

When we find joy in the gift we _____, we can also find joy in the gifts that we _____.

MEMORY VERSE

"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." **Matthew 2:2, NIV**

My next step: God gives Jesus to the world as a reflection of his loving heart. We respond to God's love by giving generous gifts that reflect our thankful heart.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.

