

# Sermon Outline

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NOBC

Mat. 2:1-12; John 3:16

12/11/2011

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## Givers, Gifts and Receivers

Christmas is the season of giving. Whenever the cycle of effective and beneficial giving happens, three parts are always present.

There is the Giver. His nature, resources and desires constitute the most important part of the cycle. Without a Giver there cannot be a gift and giving does not happen.

Then there is the Gift. People often focus primarily on the gift, but the nature of the gift always, without exception, reflects the nature, resources and purposes of the Giver .

Finally, the cycle of giving cannot exist without a Receiver. A Giver may Give a Gift, but the cycle is incomplete unless a receiver receives, accepts, the Gift.

This morning we shall compare some human givers, the “wise men from the east,” and God, the supernatural Giver. In pursuing the matter this way we will notice both similarities and differences between the two cycles of giving.

### I. THE GIVERS

#### A. The Human Givers: Magi, “wise men from the east,” Dan. 9:20-27; Mat. 2:1-12

1. Their motivation: to worship “the newborn King”
2. Consider what may have determined their gifts — Who were they? What did they do? God inspired them, possibly through Daniel’s writings and prophecies
  - a. Their passionate persistence
  - b. The adoration in their hearts was expressed in their gifts

#### B. The Divine Giver: The Holy, Eternal, Supernatural God

1. His motivation: Holy, supernatural love
2. His nature determined His gift
  - a. He has unlimited resources from which to give
  - b. He was motivated by unique love, willingness to give His most valuable possession

### II. THE GIFTS EXPRESSED THE NATURE OF THE GIVERS

#### A. The Human Givers’ Gifts: “gold, frankincense, myrrh”

1. Their gifts were an expression of their wealth, their best and most valuable possessions
2. Their gifts indicated and expressed their intent — to worship the King
  - a. Gold represented the royalty of “the newborn King”
  - b. Frankincense prophesied of the sweet fragrance of His life
  - c. Myrrh prophesied of His anticipated, sacrificial death

#### B. God’s Gift: “His only begotten Son”

1. God’s gift was His most precious possession — more valuable than anything else
2. God’s gift expressed God’s intent: To purchase forgiveness and salvation for sinners
  - a. God’s gift reflected God’s nature and was given because God is a “Giver”
  - b. God’s gift broke God’s heart and caused Him indescribable pain
  - c. God’s gift is unique because it is the only thing that can purchase man’s freedom from sin and Satan and give man eternal life

### III. THE RECIPIENTS OF THE GIFTS

#### A. God Chose to Receive and Accept the Gifts of the Magi

1. God accepted their gifts even though He did not need them
2. God accepted their gifts: He valued their desire to worship His Gift, His Son

#### B. Man Can Choose to Accept or Reject God’s Gift of Salvation and Eternal Life

1. Man receives God’s gift by choosing to believe, to trust, Jesus, God the Son, as his Lord and Savior and accept His death on the cross as the payment for his sin
2. Man rejects God’s gift of eternal life when he chooses NOT to accept Jesus as his Lord and savior by refusing to believe in Him and trust Him.

