



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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The Gift of Worship

Focus Verse: Matthew 2:11 - And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

Lesson Text: Matthew 2:2, 11; 7-11; Luke 1:26-38, 41-43; 2:20; Romans 5:12-19

Truth About God: God desires our worship.

Truth For My Life: I will worship God with my entire life as the natural response to my faith.

The Christmas story is a call to faith, as it was for the characters in the story long ago. In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced that two miracle babies would soon be born. By faith Mary accepted this proclamation of the coming Messiah, as did Joseph, Elizabeth, the shepherds, the wise men, and others. Mary, in an act of humility and great faith, responded, *“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word”* (Luke 1:38). She also laid down her reputation and Joseph his pride. They were willing to give up their desires and plans so God’s plan could be fulfilled.

Although we have not encountered angels nor seen the baby Jesus lying in the manger, we read the story in faith, believing that this newborn was the long-awaited Savior. And we have an advantage over these characters because we have read the rest of the story. When reading the Christmas narrative, we believe that not only God come down to Earth to be born as a baby, but also that He grew to become a man, took on the sins of the world, gave His life on the cross, rose again as the victor over sin and death, and now calls us to be in relationship with Him.

Like Elizabeth and the shepherds, we experience wonder when we encounter God’s presence. We approach God and Scripture through faith, but when we enter the presence of God, we experience Him, changing us and confirming our belief. When we encounter God, we are engulfed by His Spirit. We are in awe of God. In awe of His greatness and His love, we are moved to action, moved to worship Him. **Worship is the natural outward expression of our faith.**

God gives good gifts, but He desires for us to reciprocate His love by giving back to Him. We are called to give back to God, worshiping Him with our lives and allowing Him to use us to bring hope, joy, and love to others. We acknowledge His goodness and honor Him for who He is. God is holy and deserves the worship of those who have believed on Him and experienced His holiness. When we give back to God through worship, we humble ourselves in reverence before Him. **When we worship, we also lay down our pride, our selfishness, our honor, our reputation, and our status.** We lay them down because we recognize their insignificance in the presence of the King of Kings.

In the Old Testament, God dwelt among His people. In the New Testament, God physically came down to Earth to restore His relationship with humanity. From His humble beginning of being born in a stable as a helpless child, to submitting Himself to His parents’ authority, to being ridiculed, to washing His disciples’ feet, to being hung on a shameful cross, Jesus displayed humility throughout His life on Earth, and as His followers, we are called to do the same.

Another way to worship God in humility is by giving and it comes from our hearts, and our actions show the manifestation of that worship. God wants us to give to Him, not out of duty alone, but out of love. When we humble ourselves to God willingly giving of our time to work for His kingdom, giving our resources to fund the furtherance of His kingdom, and blessing others with the blessings we have received, these are all forms of worship for our King.

We are willing to lay down our lives for those we love most, but what are we willing to give for our Savior? Jesus gave up His life to die on the cross. As His followers, we are called to give up our lives as well, not in death, but in life. When we humble ourselves, by surrendering everything, we act on our faith and on our experience to truly worship our God.

Sometimes our dreams don’t match up with God’s plans. We may even forget our dreams. But when we worship God by giving our all to Him, our lives will have so much more value because they will be used for His kingdom and glory.