

## LIFE NOTES

December 05, 2021

Series: Tis the Season to Give  
"The Goal of Giving"

### THE STORY OF THE MAGI

#### Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup> '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 be the shepherd of my people Israel.'

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> 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 and of incense and of myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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**Deuteronomy 18:9-13** <sup>9</sup> When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving, you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. <sup>10</sup> Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, <sup>11</sup> or casts spells or who consults the dead. <sup>12</sup> Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord, and because of these detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. <sup>13</sup> You must be blameless before the Lord your God." (NIV)

**Psalms 72:10** "The western kings of Tarshish and the islands will bring him tribute. The eastern kings of Sheba and Seba will bring him gifts." (NLT)

**Isaiah 60:3** "All nations will come to your light; mighty kings to see your radiance." (NLT)

**Life Point:** The goal of giving is to \_\_\_\_\_ God.

**Psalms 54:6** "I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you; I will praise your name, O Lord, for it is good." (NIV)

### HOW MY GIVING GLORIFIES GOD

1. It shows I will \_\_\_\_\_ God's promises.

**Matthew 6:31-33** <sup>31</sup> ... don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing. <sup>32</sup> Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, <sup>33</sup> and He will give you all you need from day to day if you live for Him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern." (NLT)

2. It shows I will \_\_\_\_\_ my priorities.

**Isaiah 29:13** "The Lord says, "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me ..." (NIV)

**Matthew 6:21** "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (NIV)

3. It shows I will \_\_\_\_\_ God's purposes.

**2 Corinthians 9:11-15** <sup>11</sup> ... when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will **thank God**. <sup>12</sup> So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will **joyfully** express their **thanksgiving to God**. <sup>13</sup> As a result of your ministry, they will give **glory to God**. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. <sup>14</sup> And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. <sup>15</sup> Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!" (NLT)

### BOTTOM LINE:

**Psalms 96:7-8** <sup>7</sup> O nations of the world, recognize the Lord; recognize that the Lord is glorious and strong. <sup>8</sup> Give to the Lord **the glory** He deserves! Bring your offering and come to worship Him." (NLT)