

STRANGE GIFTS

Rev. Fred Elphick

Lesson: Matthew 2

The wise men came from a country far away. If you could point at where the sun rises, that would tell you where they came from, in the east.

Now these wise men from the east knew about the Lord. They had seen a star high up in the sky and they knew what it meant. They understood many things.

When they saw that special star, they knew that the Lord had been born. So they came to Bethlehem, to the house where the Lord was and they brought Him special presents—gold, frankincense and myrrh. Remember that the Lord was still a young child. So what could He do with those gifts?

Suppose that you were given presents like that for Christmas—some heavy yellow metal called gold, some spicy gum from a tree, called incense, and another kind of gum called myrrh. You couldn't play with them, could you?

Why would men who were very wise and knew lots of things—why would they choose presents like that?

Well, you know that when you love someone very much and you want to show them how you feel, you give them presents. The wise men wanted to show how grateful they were because the Lord had come to save everyone. So they gave him presents that *meant* that.

They knew that gold, frankincense and myrrh mean all the good things that we get from the Lord. They were showing that all the most precious things in our life come from the Lord.

The warmth of His love is like the warm color of gold. All the wonderful true things that come from Him are like sweet-smelling frankincense—and all the good deeds we can do when we obey what the Lord tells us are like the myrrh that was used as an ointment on the body.

So now we know something that those very wise men knew—all truly good things come from the Lord.

This is another reason why we are thankful to the Lord at Christmas.

“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him...” (Matt. 2:11).