



You Can't Always Get What You Want Part 1: Why it's better we don't get our way

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Have you noticed that the further we go down the road of trying to legitimize gift giving as a way to celebrate Christ's birth the sillier our rationale becomes?

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and

when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Matthew 2:1-12 (NKJV)

We put a lot of attention on the wisemen being seekers, but the wisemen would better be described as worshipers.

The word worship appears 3 times in these 12 verses in Matthew chapter 2.

- Their stated intention V.2 "we have come to worship him"
- Herod's faked agreement with their pursuit V.8 "... that I may come and worship Him also"
- The action of the wisemen when they found the child V.11 "... (they) fell down and worshipped Him"

The truest, purist relationship we have with God is adorational.

- ***Matthew 2: 6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'***

A ruler who will shepherd. A relationship with this Ruler/Shepherd requires complete obedience and complete trust.

The trouble with tying the exchange of gifts between people to the birth of Jesus, is that giving and receiving are a part of a transactional relationship.

Most of the time I'm offering spiritual compliance in exchange for God giving me the thing I want.

- According to Scripture, human beings are compulsive "want-ers" with broken choosers.
- Getting what our broken choosers want tends to impoverish our souls.

The object of adoration, especially when that object is sovereign wise and good actually brings us into greater freedom.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today,

if you will hear His voice: "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work. For forty years I was grieved with that generation, And said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.'

Psalm 95:6-10 (NKJV)

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

**O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**