

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2: 1-20

Matthew 2:1-11

I. Remember the Sacrifice

- a. **2 sides of this sacrifice**
 - i. **The Father gave us His Son – John 3:16**
 - ii. **The Son obeyed the Father - Philippians 2:5-7**
 - 1. Humbled Himself and became a man –
 - 2. Remember that HE was and is GOD! He gave up His deity, His rights – for what? For us!!!!
- b. **Another similar story**
 - i. **An earthly father gave up his son - Genesis 22:1-14**
 - ii. **An earthly son obeyed his father** - He gave himself over to the will of his father and allowed himself to be placed on an altar without a fight. That's exactly what the Son of God did when He came to earth as a man, and even more so when He allowed Himself to be sacrificed for our sins.
- c. **Are you and I willing to sacrifice ourselves and our lives to God** – willing to humble ourselves and surrender completely to HIS will? What is it that you are withholding and not letting go of today?
 - 1. Charles Swindoll writes, “The Lord may be in the process of taking it from you. He'll gently tug on it at first, giving you the opportunity to release your grip. If you resist, He'll eventually have to pry your fingers away, and I can assure you that it will hurt. My advice? Voluntarily release it. Trust the Lord to provide. He has another ram in the thicket. You can't see it right now, but He has it waiting. Only after you have placed your sacrifice on the altar will you be ready to receive God's provision.”
 - 2. John 10:10 – Remember that Jesus came so that we might have an ‘abundant’ life!

**** Just our Heavenly Father sacrificed His Son for us and just as Jesus gave up everything and obeyed the Father and just as Abraham trusted our Heavenly Father and laid his child on the altar and just as that child, Isaac, trusted His earthly Father, let us let go of whatever we are withholding from God today!**

II. Remember the Star

- a. It should bring us Joy (Matthew 2:10)
 - i. 'They were overjoyed'
 - ii. 1 Thessalonians 5:16, "Be joyful always".
 - iii. Colossians 1:11,12

- b. It should cause us to Worship (2:11)
 - i. Psalm 95:6 – bow down before HIM – have you ever fallen on your knees before God, fallen flat and laid before HIM? Are we somewhat fearful of HIM? Are you afraid to 'look at Him'?
 - ii. Psalm 99:5 – Exalt Him – like a proud parent that can't keep from talking about something their child did – do we Exalt God, do we brag on HIM? Do we just talk and talk and talk about God and all that He has done?
 - iii. Hebrews 12:28 – with reverence and awe – do you and I stand before God in AWE? Are we truly awestruck by God's works?

- c. We should bring gifts (2:12)
 - i. Why don't we? Would we ever go to a birthday party without a gift? Seldom!
 - 1. Genesis 43 – Joseph's brothers brought gifts to Joseph because they were in awe of Him and wanted to be on His good side.
 - 2. Luke 21:1-4 – She gave all she had to live on
 - 3. Luke 7: 36-38 – The Sinful woman brought her alabaster jar of perfume and bathed Jesus with it.

**** Wise men still seek Him – are you wise? Are you overjoyed? Are you compelled to worship? Do you bring gifts?**