

**Pacific Growth Group – Sermon Questions**  
**Week of December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Sermon Series: Reframing Christmas Traditions**  
**Primary Text(s): Matthew 2:1-12.**  
**Sermon Theme: Gift-Giving**

1. *What is the best gift you received during childhood or adolescence? Why was this gift so memorable?*
2. Saint Augustine wrote, **“A Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks, and a hand through which Christ helps.”**
  - a. *Share how we should approach our lives to help us embody Augustine’s description of a Christian.*
3. **Read Matthew 2:1-6.**
  - a. *Talk about the significance of Jesus being born in Bethlehem from a Messianic prophecy standpoint. Where else in Scripture would you refer to when discussing Jesus being the prophesied Messiah?*
  - b. *Converse about how we can learn from the faith of the wise men who followed a “star” as their guide to meeting the Christ Child.*
4. **Read Matthew 2:7-8.**
  - a. Herod had zero (0) desire to worship Jesus, but unbeknownst to him, God used him to lead the wise men in the right direction in their pursuit of meeting Jesus when he told them to go to Bethlehem. *Elaborate on an experience you have of God using the most unlikely sources to lead you along the right path.*
5. **Read Matthew 2:9-12.**
  - a. Unpack how you imagine baby Jesus reacted when the wise men arrived at the house He resided.
  - b. The gifts the wise men gave Jesus reflected the status of their relationship from a culturally contextualized perspective. They related to Jesus as the image of the invisible God who was worthy of their worship. *How should this influence us as we give gifts to our loved ones?*
  - c. Share strategies we can employ to help us avoid giving into the temptation to overextend ourselves financially that so many are facing during this time of year.

- d. Read John 14:27. Where are you most desirous of experiencing Jesus' gift of peace this Christmas season?
  
- e. The apparent symbolism represented in the gifts the wise men gave to Jesus fit elements of the mission and purpose Jesus came into the world to fulfill. *Discuss steps we could take to cultivate an outlook that helps us to be attentive to the purposes of God developing within our loved ones who we present with gifts.*