

## **The Grace Gift**

### **December 21, 2025**

**Matthew 2:1-8**, *“Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, <sup>2</sup> ‘Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.’ <sup>3</sup> King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, ‘Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?’ <sup>5</sup> ‘In Bethlehem in Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote: <sup>6</sup> ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’” <sup>7</sup> Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child.”*

#### **The Wise Men:**

##### **1. Gave Sacrificially**

**Matthew 2:9**, *“After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was.”*

##### **2. Gave Personally**

**James 1:27**, *“Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”*

**Matthew 2:10**, *“When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!”*

##### **3. Gave Filled with Joy**

**Matthew 2:11**, *“They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”*

##### **4. Gave Worshipfully**

**1 John 3:16-18**, *“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.”*

**1 Peter 4:10**, *“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”*