

Great Gifts Come With Great Stories...

The Christmas Story teaches us about the greatest gift.







...compelled by our encounter

Jesus is the Greatest Gift! practical

Maybe we give gifts during this season as a nod to the wise guys who traveled from afar. They brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh... but were they practical?

Matthew 2:1-13

The Magi brought gifts of extraordinary value fit for a newborn king, but the spiritual significance of these gifts outweigh their worldly worth as they point to Jesus' life.

Let's talk about GOLD

Not only was this precious metal valuable and highly regarded by the rich, but it would've also come in handy as the holy family fled.

Let's talk about FRANKINCENSE

A perfume or incense that would be used as a holy offering, perhaps foreshadowing the holy anointing of Jesus during His ministry.

Let's talk about MYRRH

Often used as a medicinal anesthetic to help numb the pain, something similar would've been offered to Jesus as He hung on the cross.

These gifts were not on Mary's baby shower registry; they seem so impractical for a baby, but they showed up in Jesus' story in the most practical ways.

to announce the King of Kings **FRANKINCENSE** to anoint and bless the Son of God to acknowledge the Savior's sacrifice

The Magi's story reminds us that great gifts are

ractical

Practical gifts are meant to be used, not set aside... If Jesus is your Lord, then He doesn't sit on the shelf. You engage Him every day in every circumstance.

We have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

- Colossians 1:9-10

Devote regular time to prayer and Bible study.

Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

- Romans 12:2

Live well, producing the Fruits of the Spirit.

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

- Galatians 5:22-23

Be intentional about seeing and serving others.

Use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

- Galatians 5:13-14

The "practical" nature of this greatest gift is not a slight to our Savior as ordinary... Instead, it serves as a reminder of His everyday impact on our relationships with God, others, and self.

