



Presence Over Presents!

Whatever happened to Thanksgiving? Evidence of a vanishing holiday:

Christmas has invaded and taken over Thanksgiving! What if Thanksgiving was to invade and take over our Christmas this year?

What if an attitude of gratitude filled our entire holiday season?

What if this Christmas our emphasis was not so much on buying gifts, but on expressing our appreciation, love and gratitude in better ways?

Have you ever read the book "The 5 Love Languages"? If you have, then you know that people give and receive love in different ways!

How do you show love towards others? How do you like to receive love?

Examples: _____

What if we spent more time this season asking the question "What can I do this Christmas to show my love & gratitude towards the people in my life?"

Giving gifts, from a store, isn't always the best way! Do you have a difficult person in your life to buy Christmas gifts for? What else could you give?

This sermon series is titled "O Come Let Us Adore Him!" Have you ever asked the question, "What would Jesus want from me for Christmas?"

How does someone give a gift to the person who created, has authority over and rules all things? No gift would seem appropriate!

Jesus doesn't need gold, frankincense and myrrh anymore!

And if He already has your heart, what else is there left to give Him?

An example: I have already given my wife gold (jewelry), frankincense (candles), and myrrh (wonderfully smelling hand soaps, lotions, & sprays). I have already given her my heart! What else is there left to give?

How should I approach giving gifts to my wife this Christmas?

How should I approach giving gifts to Jesus this Christmas?

We must learn their love language and allow that to drive our gift giving!

My wife wants my presence, not my presents! I believe Jesus does too!

We will be examining in this sermon series, all the ways the people in the Christmas story approached Jesus & what it teaches us about our approach!

I believe Jesus wants our P.R.A.I.S.E for Christmas, & it starts with being present! How do I know this? Consider the story of that first Christmas!

What was asked of Mary? Her presence! She was asked to leave her youth behind to be the mother of Jesus! **Luke 1:30-38**

What was asked of Joseph? His presence! To leave his pride behind, & take Mary as his wife & be the earthly father of Jesus! **Matthew 1:18-25**

What was the response of the angels? To be present! They left heaven to come to earth to pronounce and praise the name of Jesus!

What was the response of the shepherds? To be present! They left work to go and see this Savior that had been born in Bethlehem! **Luke 2:8-16**

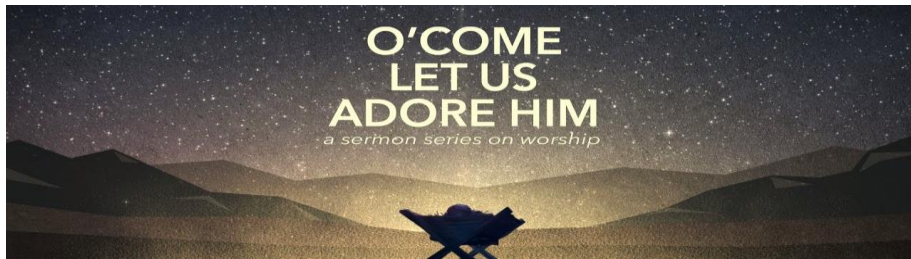
What was the response of the wise men? To be present! They left their homes to make a long journey, just to worship this new King! **Mt. 2:1-2**

Jesus gave the gift of His presence to us, to be our Lord, Savior and King! What will be our response/approach to Him considering His decision to leave heaven and come to earth to be present with us? **John 1:1-3, 14**

If we want to give the gift of P.R.A.I.S.E. to Jesus this Christmas, it starts with the gift He gave to us & the response others gave to Him that first Christmas

Will we "Come and Adore Him" by being present to worship Him this year? It truly is the gift that can keep on giving!

Let Thanksgiving invade your Christmas this year by letting gratitude drive your presence in worshipping the King of Kings & Lord of Lords!



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