

OUR 2017 CHRISTMAS GIFT TO JESUS CHRIST THROUGH
HIS CHURCH, THE ANCHORAGE BAPTIST TEMPLE

I. THE GIFT OF THE SHEPHERDS - THE LOVE GIFT

Luke 2:8-20, “Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!’ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.” (NKJ)

A. Like the shepherds, we need:

1. To attend to the message.
2. To acknowledge it as truth.
3. To act upon the revelation.
4. To accept the message as ours.
5. To announce it to others.

Luke 2:17, “And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.” (KJV)

II. THE GIFT OF THE WISE MEN - THE GIFT OF SACRIFICE

Matt. 2:8-12, “And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, ‘Go and search diligently for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.’ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then,

being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.” (NKJ)

A. Like the Wise men:

1. Our gift needs to be an individual gift.
2. Our gifts need to be thoughtfully prepared.
3. Our gifts need to be representative.
4. Our gifts need to be costly.

III. THE GIFT OF A MIRACLE OFFERING.