



## *The gifts of the Magi*

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Matthew 2:1-12

### Herod was interested in:

1. *appearances*
2. *self-preservation*
3. *self-rule*
4. *hoarding gifts*

### The Magi were interested in:

1. *authenticity*
2. *self-sacrifice*
3. *obedience to God*
4. *giving gifts*

### So now what?

Spend less on *material things* and *seek* the real *King*.

Spend less on *luxury* and *sacrifice* for the *greater good*.

Spend less on *convenience* and choose to *obey God*.

Spend less on *consuming things* and *give* in such ways that will...  
impact the *next generation*!  
help *restore* our *broken world*, today!  
draw attention to *Jesus*!

### The one thing:

*Spend less, except where you should spend more!*

## NEXT STEPS

- Memorize Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
- Conspire with others to give in significant ways.
- Watch Ray Vander Laan's Faith Lessons on the Death & Resurrection of the Messiah: Caesarea (DVD series in Church library).
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTES FOR PERSONAL & SMALL GROUP STUDY

### 1 KEEPING IT REAL

How many advertisements from this Christmas season can you describe?  
Or, what was the best Christmas gift you have ever received (other than Jesus, of course)?

### 2 LOOK AT THE BOOK

The following Scriptures are meant to be for discussion, not a guilt trip!  
Read: Ecclesiastes 5:19; Proverbs 27:20; James 4:1-3; Matthew 6:19-21;  
Matthew 6:33. The Advent Conspiracy theme this week is spending less:  
How do, or do not, these Scriptures shed light on this thought?

3 The Magi spent extravagantly to give gifts to Jesus. See Matthew 2:11.  
Spending less on "stuff" that is not lasting allows us to give in areas that matter. Consider Matthew 25:34-40.

### 4 TAKING IT FURTHER

What specific ways can I conspire (contrive, unite, combine forces) to "spend less" this Christmas so I can give meaningful and/or lasting gifts to my family, friends...and to Jesus?