



The Message

God's Gifts Always
Find their Place
(Appropriate Gifts)

preached by
the late

William M. Branham

22nd December, 1963

in Jeffersonville, USA

"God's Spoken Word is the Original Seed"

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Good evening, friends. I've just got in, a while ago, and I thought I could come down and wish you all a "Merry Christmas."

I didn't know I'd have this grand privilege to talk to you on the Word of the Lord. And so Brother Neville asked me; and I had several little Christmas texts that I've been using, one of them at Phoenix and down at Tucson, different places around there, a regular Christmas message. And I thought, tonight, I'd just speak on a little something here that the Lord put upon my mind recently, when I was up in Colorado.

And I was thinking on something at Christmas time, and I've got about five or six of the little jots written down here, Scriptures and things. I reckon Brother Neville and all ministers do that. It seems as if something comes to you, and you jot it down. You wait for a while, and you put it down. I put it on a block of paper. Then when I get called on some time, I'll look back through here and say, "What was this now that I got hold of?" That's the way, when we're called at really short notice, you know.

It used to be, when I was younger, my mind was full, that I could just think of it right now, I didn't have to wait. I think, "Ten days ago I was in a certain place. That's the text. Here it is, and here it goes."

You know, since I've passed a few milestones, Brother Higginbotham, and crossed a few rivers, that it just doesn't come that way any more. I'm getting a little far up the road. But, as Brother Neville said, a while ago, "We're getting closer, closer to Home."

It's good to be back home. Coming back, why, it was awfully snowy. And I've heard of the accidents and things, so many of them on the road, and people being killed. And just think of how many hundreds will lose their lives now, between tonight and after New Year, how many Americans will die! And you know, some of us might be right here, tonight. And it just depends, now, on our condition before God. It's a sad nation, this Brother said, sadness everywhere. And our flag has been hanging, thirty days, half-mast, all because of sin and of people who would not accept God's way of things.

Even if we disagree with a person, what if we can't do it in a brotherly way? See, if Christ is in the heart, then not matter how much you disagree with the man, you've still got love for him and respect. I disagree with many men, many times. But still, I've never seen one yet that I disagreed with that I ever thought of doing any more than to put my arm around him and call him "my brother," try to help him the best I could. I disagree with him because I think maybe that upon disagreeing with what he believes, though I might not believe just as he does, and so forth,

I might try to project my way to him as he projects his to me, and bring them together and comb them out and see what we've got, in disagreement like that, just how far it has come to. We should never get angry, or want to hurt, or destroy, or anything. We should always be trying to build up.

We've got a cold spell going on here, haven't we? It was seventy-two when I left Tucson, and when the sun went down and it got dark, it was still sixty-nine. So, then when I came back up here, I'm just shivering all over, you know. All that snowy road, and below zero, and ice and everything, I had to get used to it again. It's so strange how you can get so acclimatized in such a little time. And since I left you, I hardly had a chance to get adjusted. I get a sort of sinus trouble in the weather here, as I get older. And I was born and raised up here. But, you see, when you're young, you've got something you can throw off; but when you get older, why, you begin to find out that something isn't there. It used to be, you could just forget about it. Now there's something there that just won't be thrown off as it was when you were a kid; so I find out in that way that a warm climate, for an old man, helps a little bit.

I remember coming down that Utica Pike up there, as a kid (seven, eight, ten, twelve, fourteen years old), no shoes on or tennis shoes, and it bring eight or ten below zero, and tennis shoes with the toes out of them. And now that isn't like walking down like the street here, but breaking the hard snow. There were no automobiles coming down, there might be a wagon track once in a while. I remember coming down that highway of a morning a little old coat on, no shirt, and the coat pinned up like this, no more than what I've got on right now; soaking wet to my knees. I'd go right on in and pay no attention to it. See, I'd hardly have a cold. But that was about forty-five years ago. So, there's been a whole lot of weakening, a lot of miles built up on the milometer, you know, so we just don't take it as we used to.

I saw Brother Capps raise his head up. You're too young to think those thoughts now. But wait till you get up where Brother Neville and I are, then you'll think a lot of things differently. Age weakens down.

Well, we've had great times in the Lord. The Lord has blessed us tremendously, and I'm so thankful. And I crime back. And I think, next Sunday, the Lord willing, I want, if Brother Neville doesn't care, to hold a service, at least Sunday morning and maybe Sunday night, a healing service for Sunday night. Sunday morning I've got an important message, if the Lord be willing for me to deliver it. I haven't thought up anymore than just my text yet no context to it, because I'm without, you know, any revelation from the Lord, but have it just in myself. I want to express something on Sunday that I hope will help out a little bit along these Ways.

I've got to go now into the field, and I've got just every day almost taken up everywhere. I think Billy was telling me, among the itinerary, that I've got two or three days that I could come home in April after I

leave here, go back to Tucson, and that about settles it then. And then on till next October, when I get back to this side again from overseas.

Now, there are three more days to Christmas. One more day, isn't it? That'd be two. Monday - Tuesday's Christmas Eve? Tuesday's Christmas Eve. Isn't it awful to see that this great holiday, that we're coming to, is approached in the manner that it's approached in? It's such a pitiful thing, such a stupid thing, to think that rabbits, and a myth called Santa Claus and everything, have taken the real value away from Christmas.

Now, we don't know, and I certainly do riot believe - I was just coming down (the wife's back there now), coming down the road, and was listening to an astronomer. They just fell on the idea which an astronomer told me many, many years ago, when I was just a game warden here in Indiana. They told me how those stars came together, just as that first astronomer did. And that formed, what they said would be a natural thing that happens every, I believe he said tonight, eight-hundred years, or something like that. And it reforms itself again. Saturn and Jupiter, and (I forget) - Mars; no, that's wrong. It's some of the stars, how they speed when they cross their orbits in the plane of the earth; and this astronomer tonight was trying to tell us that it actually was a natural thing. I don't accept that. I believe it was a supernatural thing, that God did it. Things are supernatural with God. He is Supernatural.

And I looked down and know that this is facing back now to April, the Lord willing for me to live that long, I'll be fifty-five years old. See? And I know, looking back on my life, that I wonder when it happened. From those first little Christmases, when we hang up our stockings, and we'd probably get an orange, and two or three little pieces of striped candy, and that was a great Christmas to us. But, you know, kids, they look forward for those gifts. We find out that Christmas is mainly for children, they look forward to that nowadays. It's turned over to the children. But it really should be for adults; it should be teaching their children what Christmas really is.

And I totally do not believe that Christ could have been born on the twenty-fifth day of December, in Judaea, because it's colder there than it is right here now. See? Oh, and how could the shepherds be keeping their flocks by night? And then the taxation and everything, and Mary having to come that far way down to Bethlehem in Judaea for the taxation. I hardly could believe that, how that could be done. It could not be done, but I believe that Christ was born in the spring, because in every way He was a Lamb. See? And notice, He was born in a barn, and not in a house.

And when they took him to the cross with the others, as far as we know, it was never said about his leading them, but they led Him. Did you know a lamb or a sheep has to be led to the slaughter? It will not go to the slaughter, you have to lead it there. And usually it's a goat that leads the sheep. In the killing pens, they have a goat. And the goat will walk up this runway, till he gets up to get the sheep started along the runway to be killed; and then the goat will jump out. But when there

comes a time they're going to kill the goat, he really kicks up a fuss (he has to go in), because you couldn't blame him. But it's a thing how a sheep has to be led, and He was led to the slaughter. They led Him. He was a Lamb. And I believe in that way, it being altogether nature, and lambs are born in March, April, and somewhere along there, not later than May. And I don't believe it was anything before March or anything after May, sometime along there.

But when the church, Christianity, was married into Romanism, it was at the Nicaea Council, when the Roman nation accepted Christianity and made what they called the universal religion to be their Christianity. They made the universal religion, and they worshipped idols, and they had a sun-god.

And right now, from the twenty-first to the twenty-fifth, the sun almost stands in its same track as it's passing. What is it you call that? I thought I knew it, but I can't think of it. When the sun - it gains so much time and loses so much time, until the twenty-first. Between the twenty-first and twenty-fifth of December. Oh, I forget what they call it, oh, I can almost say it but can't right now. However, it's that standstill of the sun, which is called by the Romans (that's when the circus went on), it was called the *sun-god's birthday*. They celebrated it from the twenty-first to the twenty fifth of December.

So then, seeing they were converted (Rome), Christianity was accepted in Rome, then they said, "We'll take the same celebration, and make it the *Son of God's birthday*." See? The sun-god, Jupiter's birthday, then Son of God's birthday, twenty-fifth of December.

But what difference does it make? See, today, even if they were doing it in July or August, or whenever it might be, it's still the sacredness of remembering that God gave us the hope that we have in us. And now, you say, "Well, the rest of them are all Santa Claus and go on like they do; why, we just might as well do it." No, sir! **No, this is not a pagan celebration to us, this is a sacred hour. If there had been no Christmas, there would have been no resurrection. If there had been no Christmas; there would have been no love, there'd have been no peace, there'd have been no hereafter for the believer; if there'd been no Christmas.**

And now, you say, "Well, if the rest of the world, they just..." Well, see, the forked lightning in the black, cloudy skies, shows that there can be light in the time of darkness. These lights tonight prove that, that there can be light in the time of darkness. And when does light shine its best? In darkness. If you turn these lights on in the daytime with the sun is shining in, you'll hardly notice they're on. But just one little, wee light will shine really bright in a time of darkness. **And right now is the darkness when every Christian should give a testimony of the hope that's in him, of Jesus Christ the Son of God;** not some Santa Claus that was born back yonder, you know, or some kind of a tree lit up that went down through the forest one night, some fiction story

with no bottom to it. But we believe solidly in the promised Word of God of a coming Messiah, and he was born on Christmas day, pretty near two thousand years ago. We believe.

So, tonight we're going to speak a little bit in a different way. I guess your pastor's already spoken, and will probably speak Wednesday night again, because I know he laid back some text or something, to give me this platform tonight. And I want him to bring it, I want to listen to him.

But now, just before we do this, let's just bow our heads again for a moment of prayer:

Heavenly Father, this great sacred moment, when we think of the different things in the Scripture here, everywhere we go back in the Old Testament, it speaks of that day when God shall send His Son. How those prophets back there allotted their time for prophecy of the Word of God to come to them. And they prophesied in their days and foretold the things that would come to pass, and we see it all met there in Bethlehem that night when God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son. We thank Thee for this.

And now, Lord, tonight we settle down here to speak on Thy. Word; and It's so sacred, Lord, which is the reason we like to speak to You first. And we ask that You'll open our understanding to Your Word. In Jesus' Name we ask it. Amen.

Now I want to read some Scripture here, just a regular Christmas story, for the Scripture found in Matthew, the 2nd chapter; and while you're turning to that, John 3:16.

I spoke the other night up at Phoenix. You tape people here, who listen to the tapes, I'd like you to listen to that one: *Why Jesus Had To Come To Bethlehem*. Why did He have to do it? And those symbols there of David, lying and waiting upon the mountain, looking down and seeing the Philistine army garrison. And I compared that exactly with today, to find out what Bethlehem means.

And Christ is our Bethlehem, and could prove that every man that's born of God is born in Bethlehem, because Christ is Bethlehem. And that's what He was, the **Bread of Life**. And Beth, B-e-t-h means, "house", E-l is "God," and e-l-h-e-m is Elhem, which means "God's bread," making "House of God's Bread." And Jesus Christ was the "House of God's Bread," Bread of Eternal Life. And every man that's born into Christ, you're born into Bethlehem, "House of God's Bread." And how that the leagues of these churches today are garrisoned, like the Philistines, to keep the people from it.

And how that those gallant men, knowing that David was anointed and was going to become king some day (very unpopular then, because he was a fugitive among his people), but one day his call came. They had gallant men with him. And remember, those men were Gentiles, almost every one of them were Gentiles, a very beautiful type of today. And one man was so gallant, he killed eight hundred men with his spear, himself, in one day. Another one was standing in a field of lentils, and an army

came up, a troop. And all of them ran, and he stood there and slew men until his arms were tired. And then another one, how he jumped into a pit and killed a lion on a snowy day, single-handed. And an Egyptian ran after him with a long spear, and he took a stick and knocked this spear out of his hand, took the spear and killed the Egyptian himself, and killed three-hundred captains.

Great men! David crying out, "If I could but drink once more from that well!" (where he used to water his sheep; when he went out of the morning from the corral, they would want a drink of water). And these men pulled their swords and fought through fifteen miles of men, and brought this water back.

And David said, "Far be it, that I should drink it." And he poured it upon the ground as a drink-offering to the Lord. What a beautiful type of the same thing, of John 3: 16, tonight:

... God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,...

And what did Christ do? The Life that He had to live Eternally, He poured it upon the ground from His veins, His natural life, upon the ground as a sin-offering for us. And how the Gentiles today, men of honour, men, great men, taking the sword, and standing there and cutting their way through to get a fresh drink of water for Christ (our David), which is very unpopular today. But our David, who, as we know, is coming in power, He's going to trample every nation under His feet like that, and rule them with a rod of iron. And there are real gallant men, standing with the Word of God and chopping from side to side fearlessly, because they know He's coming in power.

Let's read now, after John 3: 16; let's read the visit of the Magi of St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter:

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when you have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw 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 exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

It's very strange here how that God, in a lesser way, speaks to people through dreams. I believe it. But it's strange how God in this case used a secondary way.

Now, a dream, if it's interpreted rightly, is a same as a vision; if it's a dream and being interpreted. God's used it back in the Old Testament and down through the ages, and promised in the last days to use it again. Now, people can overeat and so forth and get nightmares, but they are not real, spiritual dreams, and don't add up when you read them. And some of them might seem right; but yet there are real, spiritual dreams. And we know here at the Tabernacle that God gives people dreams and they are interpreted, and they come to pass, and they're real. But it's a secondary way of doing it. See?

Now, the reason it was done then was because there was no prophet in the land at that time to interpret the dream. See? There was no prophet to interpret dreams, like Joseph and Daniel and those prophets of old. They hadn't had a prophet for four-hundred years, and God used a dream for the welfare of His own Child. He did.

He told Joseph, when he, "a just man, not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily." No doubt she told him about the visit of Gabriel and so forth, and what he had said; but when he saw she was to be a mother, it was too unusual. You know, it was something very different. And you know, that's what's the matter today. God does things in an unusual way, and it's so unusual that even just men can't see it.

Joseph couldn't understand it, it was too unusual. He was a good man, there was nothing wrong with him. He was a good man, a just man, but it was so unusual. See, Joseph was probably forty years old, or forty-five, something like that, they claim, when he and Mary were engaged. But here we find something that had never happened: a woman espoused to this man and yet found to be mother! And it was so unusual Joseph was minded to put her away. But right at that crucial moment, God sent His Angel, and appeared to him in a dream and said, "Don't fear

to take to thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost."

What a new-born faith Joseph must have had when he rose up from there! See, he never had need of any interpretation, the dream wasn't in symbols. It was right straight out, "Don't fear to take Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." There was no prophet to give the interpretation, so it had to come directly, right straight like that from God to Joseph. God took that secondary way.

What does it teach us right here, before we hit our text? Here's what it teaches us: that God can use every faculty of our being if it's surrendered to Him. He can use our mind, our dreams, our subconscious, our first consciousness, our tongue, our songs, our eyes. Everything that we have can be used of God if it's committed to God, see (?), everything if you are committed to God. He'll use every outlet and every part of you, He'll use it. No matter what it is, He'll use it if it's sanctified to His purpose and calling.

Now, tonight we're going to speak on *Gifts*. And I want to title this - I wrote, jotted something down in there, when Brother Neville was *up*: *God's Gifts Always Find Their Place*. God's gifts are always rejected, but they find their place when it's time.

Now, watch the gift that these wise men brought to Him. Today we And that we're swapping gifts. Everybody has to get a gift, and try to figure out what the next fellow's is going to give him, so that he can give him something comparable. And if it isn't well at the New Year he feels he has to make it up. And each one is studying and worrying and walking the floor, the millionaires and wondering how they're going to get by. They give so much to this one and that, when it's altogether wrong. This is altogether Christmas these days.

There's only one gift that you can give, and that is yourself. Give yourself to God, because God's already given you His Gift. Now, there's only thing you owe back to God, that's yourself.

Now, many times names are in the Bible. We don't notice it any more today. You've often heard me scorn this name, of people calling their children "Ricky." Now, Ricky is a horrible name! See? And you mustn't call them that. If you have got a child named Ricky, for goodness sake change it. Ricky, or Elvis, or something like that. Ricky means "a rat". See? And what you call a person, that impresses itself. A little lady, the other day, had a little boy out there called "Ricky" and his name's Ricky, James Ricky. And because it was so popular (Ricky), they called him "Ricky". I said, "Change that name!"

I notice some people sitting right here now that have got a little grandson, and his name is - the one little boy's the sweetest, pleasant little fellow; and the other one is Ricky, and that's what he is. You just watch him, his nature's just like that. I said to his grandparents, or someone, "Tell the mother to change the name of that boy, just change

that name over and watch what happens to the kid." **See, you people don't want to believe that.** We think we've lived too long for that.

If there isn't something in a name, then why as long Jacob was called Jacob, which means "supplanter, deceiver," that's what he was? But when he wrestled with the Lord all night, why did the Lord change his name when he was about sixty years old? He changed his name from Jacob to Israel, "a prince before God," and that's what he became.

Why did Abram have to be called "Abraham" before the baby could be born? Why was Sarai called "Sarah" before the baby could be born?

Why did Paul have his name changed? His name was Saul, but when he met Jesus, he changed him from Saul to "Paul."

And Simon was changed from Simon to Peter, which means "little stone." And all their names were changed, because what you are called is significant. When you speak something - I don't want to get into that because that's coming up next Sunday night (see?), about unification of a word. But now, we find these things are so true.

Now, watch God! What a strange thing it is tonight to see that those men, Magi, learned men, great men came down from the East, that is from Babylon, or India. And they never came in any old night, and started one night and got there the next. They were about two years getting there. They never came to a little baby in a manger. They came to a young child, a young child. And Herod killed all the young children, so that he'd be sure to get Him, anywhere from two years old back. He set the time up because they were more like slaves to him. He wanted be sure to get Him, so he said, "The kid will be about two years old. So, everything from two years old down, kill it." See?

And that's brought to pass what the prophet said, that "In Rama there'd be heard a weeping; Rachel weeping for her children, because they were not."

Now, did you notice that these wise men, great men, were up in Babylon and they saw His Star. They said, "We have seen His Star in the east and are come to worship Him." They came from the east, where they saw the Star, going west. Because India is east, northeast of Palestine. And they came right down through by the Tigris River and crossed over the plains right on in, came down into Bethlehem where they found the baby. And, remember, Joseph and his family never left there; they subsequently went to Nazareth and brought the child up there.

Now, we see here that these men, being astronomers and studying the stars, and seeing these mysterious heavenly lights appear up there, knew that there was something going on; they knew that the Messiah, the Ruler of Heaven and earth, was to be born. And they came, knowing that Deity would be enclosed, housed in a human being. For we see it from their testimony. You know, your life speaks so much louder than your words; no matter what you say, people know you by what you are.

And watch these people, these Magi, watch the gifts they brought Him, identifying what they thought He was. They brought Him gold,

frankincense, and myrrh. And watch these symbols. What I want to talk to you about now, is what these symbols mean. Now, I've got some Scriptures written out here that we'll read in just a moment, the Lord willing.

Now: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Now, **gold** in the Bible, how it fits to Christ, because gold speaks of Deity. Gold is "Deity." We'll get to it in just a moment. Frankincense speaks of "service". And myrrh is "death." God, Deity, in service to die! And that's what He was. The very things that they brought identified what they thought He was.

And I say that to us today, "The things that we bring to Him identifies what our thoughts are about Him." You understand what I mean? See? If you believe it with all your heart every Word of that, you'll identify it by giving all that you have to it. See? But if you believe it's a good place to associate with better people around church, and things like that, that's just about what you'll give Oust a few social hours with some of the congregation or something). **But if you really believe it with all your heart, then you give everything that's in you to it. See? And it identifies you, that you truly believe the Message, that you believe it to be the Truth.**

So many people say, "I can believe this much. I can believe so." The disciples -I believe the last time here, I spoke on that: *Believers, Make-believers, and Unbelievers*. Wasn't that it? Didn't I speak on that here? and on each person, what their category is? See, it'll come to a place where they can take so much of it, and can't take the rest.

Now, how fitting these gifts were to Christ's journey on earth, the baby born here on earth. And these gifts that the wise men brought Him, fitted just exactly His commission from God and His journey on earth.

Now, the first thing: God. This was God, Jesus was God in the form of man. That's hard for people to swallow, even today, that He was God. That's what He was. He wasn't anything less than God. He was God manifested in flesh. He was the Creator in His Own creation. Yes, He was the Creator in His creation, by the creation, for the creation. He was the Creator in His creation, by His creation, for His creation. It all winds right back in God, the whole thing. Don't you see? The fullness of God! He was the Creator insomuch that He was God. And He was a Being on earth, a Being of time, which means that He must have had a beginning, therefore He created Himself a body to live in. God, Himself, created a body for Himself (see?), that by this creation He might save the lost creation that He had created.

There is nothing that man can annihilate, there isn't one thing. You can't do anything to destroy anything completely. You might take a piece of paper and burn it up, you might bum a building down, you might burn a tree down; but you didn't annihilate it. That heat in there, that fire that breaks up, is only chemicals breaking up. They're turning back to what they were at the beginning. They're not annihilated if you burn up a piece

of wood. If we lived in Eternity like God, and those chemicals from that wood and that fire went back to their original beginnings, whatever they were, the breaking into atoms and so forth, and if the world, say, were to stand for millions of years, they could come right straight back again and be another tree, just exactly like it was.

You cannot annihilate anything, because it is a Spoken Word of God. Amen! Oh, and that gets me feeling religious, now. See? What God says for ever stands. Amen! See, you cannot annihilate. We are a part of this earth, and we can never be completely annihilated. No, sir. The soul will be annihilated, we realize that, But the body that we live in cannot be annihilated. See?

Now, therefore, God created Himself a body. He was the Creator, and created His Own creation, that by this Creation He might save them that were lost in His creation (that's you and me, creatures of time).

His Word shows exactly that He and His works prove he was nothing less than the Creator. He took a piece of bread and broke it, and kept breaking that one piece of bread, and fed five-thousand people out of it; and took up seven basketfuls of pieces left over, and everybody there had a complete filling of bread.

He took a fish and broke that fish up. Now we realize that He did create that fish in the beginning. He did create that bread in the beginning. But He took that fish and broke that fish up. A live fish had been, and was then broiled or fried; and whenever He broke it up, whatever it was (broiled or fried), it grew back (the same minute that He broke it) another boiled or fried fish. Isn't that wonderful? That shows that He was nothing less than Jehovah. And that He was the Creator that could take His own creation, and by His creation, express Who He was. Hallelujah! That proved He was what He was. He was Deity. So, gold was appropriate to Him, in the offering at His birth. He was Deity made flesh.

I might drop something - (No strangers among us tonight, I suppose) - in this prayer meeting. But let me say something. Did Jesus, when He was here -? Now, this is for thinking, not for probing. Notice Oust for thinking), Jesus said in St. John 14: 12: "He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater than these shall he do, for I go to My Father." Did you notice that? Notice, now, that was the Son of God promising to the believer, that the believer would do greater things (in these last days) than He did (St. John, 14th chapter, 12th verse). Is that right? Do you believe Jesus said it?

Notice, when Jesus created bread, He took a piece of bread, and created bread that had already been bread. When He created fish, he took a fish that was first created a fish, and made another fish out of it. Is that right? He took water, which potentially would have become wine, and made wine out of it. Is that right? But we've seen Him in our midst, in those last days, create things outright, without anything standing there! Is that right? To create a squirrel where there were no squirrels. Right! Oh, He is and remains God. He's just as much Deity today as He was then

and ever was, or ever will be. He's still God, and challenging hearts to believe it, "Greater things than this, you will do, without anything to hold and break off. Speak it, and it'll be so."

Notice now, we find that He identified Himself. The works that He did identified that He was Deity, showed that He was. For He said, "If I do not the works of My Father, then don't believe Me."

And could not the Christian say today, "If I do not the works of my Saviour, believe me not"? See?

"As the Father sent Me, so send I you." And if we do the works, creation works, of the Father that sent Him, then it's Christ (the Creator) that sends us, does the works of Christ the Creator. See? "As the Father sent Me, so send I you. And if I do not the works of My Father, believe me not."

Then the Christian today has got to do the Life that Christ did or we have a right to say, "It's not so."

Notice now, His works identified Him to be the Creator. His works that He did crowned His Life's testimony, that He was the Creator; no way of getting away from it. Therefore, when they offered their gifts of gold, they were perfectly in harmony with God with their gifts. They gave Him gold, which identified Him as Deity. Always a crown, the golden crown, the golden head of King Nebuchadnezzar. Always, you see, Deity is represented by gold.

Now: **frankincense**. We want to get these quickly. Frankincense is the offering of service to Jehovah. Now, if you want, put these Scriptures down: Leviticus 2: 2 and Leviticus 16: 6-15. We find that that's the duty of the priesthood, to make an offering to Jehovah. When he made the offering, it had to be made and mixed with frankincense for a sin offering. They took different things and mixed it. For the meal offering, for the wave offering, frankincense was added. Because it was acceptable to Jehovah, if it was anointed with frankincense; which means it was a service to Jehovah, God. And now, we find out He's Deity. And they brought Him frankincense, which was a type that He was a service to Jehovah. Jesus is Jehovah's Servant.

Now, in St. Matthew 12: 15-21, we find out that He was Jehovah's Servant: "Behold my Servant, in whom I am well pleased" (and He was); and "I will put My Spirit upon Him." So His life was anointed with frankincense, to Jehovah's service. What a gift those wise men gave! See, the gift that they gave was something to identify Jesus as Jehovah's Servant.

Now, if we could only do that to identify our lives! See, our lives need to be identified as Jehovah's servants. That's what frankincense was for, that made Him Jehovah's servant.

Now: **myrrh**, m-y-r-r-h, was for anointing for burial. We find in St. John, the 19th chapter, the 39th verse, that going to the tomb of Jesus, when Mary and the others went, they took this myrrh to anoint Him with; because He must be the servant of death for Jehovah. See?

Somebody had to die. That was a service that had to be done for God, and nobody was worthy to do it but God Himself So, bringing the myrrh, showed that with the Deity and with the service He also was to be anointed with myrrh; that this Deity had to be put to death in order to save the imperfect ones. Oh what a great thing!

The whole creation was lost. We just went through it in the Seven Seals. See, the whole creation was lost, everything was gone. It all belonged to Satan. He fell heir to it and he still owns it. He certainly does. That's the reason we're fighting and having all of this trouble. He controls every kingdom; Satan does, Every government, every king, every kingdom, is controlled by Satan. The whole world is controlled and run by Satan. That's the reason we have the troubles that we have. Any Bible student, or anybody can tell you that. Well, the Bible Itself says he controls the world. But Christ will fall heir to it, for now He is our Redeemer. And He came to redeem the whole creation, and nobody could do it but God Himself.

That's the reason that God does nothing outside of a man. He always works through a man, because He had to use a man. A man is what He had to use to display His attribute of Saviour. He had to make him in His image, make him something like Him, and put him on free-moral agency and let him act any way he wanted to. He could take his choice. And He knew that man, by giving him this choice, would fall. So seeing that He had to do that, He turns back around and makes the man a partner to Him, and does nothing except He does it through a man!

The whole work of redemption came by a man! Hallelujah! Death came by the first man, Life came by the second Adam. There you are, He does nothing because He had to use a man for that; then He uses a man to redeem back again. So Deity became Jehovah. He is Deity, and He became a child. He became the form of sin, that He might redeem the sinner. See, there's the whole thing.

Now, look how beautifully those gifts fit into Jesus Christ; see, gold, speaking of His Deity. Now, they weren't heathens. They were inspired by God. They weren't imagining something. That proves right there, even with the Magi, that they did see the Supernatural. Because their own gifts, that they-offered, identified and spoke well of their testimony that they did see the Supernatural. Why? Because they speak perfectly. They brought gold, "Deity". They brought frankincense, "service". And they brought myrrh, for His "death", when He was a baby (amen!) showing that Deity would be put to death in the flesh (amen!), that it might redeem fallen man. How can people turn that down?

When you realize: What are we doing here? Where did we come from? Or what business have we got being here? We weren't put here just by chance, we were put here for a purpose, and we must serve that purpose. But still we are back on the basis of free moral agency when we can serve it or reject it, just as Adam did in the beginning.

I'm looking for little girls here. I believe it's the little lady who played the piano, and was hearing them as they sang. We were talking about them on the road up here. As a little family that's dedicated their whole life and everything to Christ. Look at that family, how orderly it is. Look at those little girls. They were standing up here an example of young womanhood, of teen-age.

A few weeks ago I went down to - I don't know what the name of the place is down there, in New York, now. They've just got city blocks of beatniks; like those girls down there with leotards on and nothing up over them! They wore a bikini (as they call it) over the top of that. And, oh, just a conglomeration, they do anything that's in their minds. No matter what it is, that's what they do. Why they're beatniks. They can just do anything. If they want to lie down and don't get up, they just lie down and don't get up. If they want to go and do a certain thing, they do it; if they don't, they don't. Yet, their minds are just travelling! And what does the unconverted mind come to? You have no right to do that, because you're not your own; you're bought by Deity, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, that was made flesh. But, see, the conglomeration of sin!

And you see a lot of young girls like that stand out; why? To me, it's light in the time of darkness. It's a forked light of the zig-zag whip of God in the skies, to show there can be Light! There can be righteousness in the midst of sin!

Mary, the mother of Jesus, in the city of Nazareth, the meanest city there was in the land, but out of there God chose a little lady to give birth to his Son; an incubator, a womb that a baby had to be born by. He took such a person to do it. God works through human beings to redeem human beings. He can take you, work through you to redeem humanity, if you'll completely dedicate everything you are.

If you're a young woman, dedicate your morals. If you're a young man, dedicate your morals, dedicate your mind, dedicate your thinking, dedicate your heart, dedicate your soul, dedicate all you are! And let Christ work through that. What a glorious thing! You've got some rivers to cross, you've got bridges to go over, you've got the brier patches, you've got the thickets, you've got the woods, you've got the dark places, you've got the high hills, you've got the high climbs. And what are you doing? Someday you'll have to stand and look back, see where you've come from, and you're going to be judged by the course you take. Put your all, your mind and your thoughts, on that North Star (the centre of God) and don't move from It. Stay right with It. It'll bring you straight as It did the Magi, right straight to the Christ.

All right, He was anointed with myrrh. We find out now, in John 12: 1 and 7, that's just exactly what happened to Him. He was the perfect Servant of God, and God had Him anointed with all of His Divine gifts. He was anointed with all of God's gifts because He was God. He was God. See, they brought Him gifts.

Now, the people here always, most of them, you know, send you something. Now, when it comes to sending back, I couldn't do it. See? It's the world over. I just couldn't do it. And I appreciate little things, and things that people do to express themselves and their thankfulness and so forth.

Now, this is what these rich men did. These men are Magi, they brought gold, pure gold. They brought frankincense, the best they could find. They brought myrrh, the best they could find.

We realize over here, in St. John 12, that this woman - (if we had time to read it, but I don't want to keep you too long, see (?), because I know tomorrow's Monday, and some of you have to work.) - this woman brought this costly myrrh, that anointed something to take the smell of death away. And she broke this alabaster box and poured it upon the head of Jesus. And Judas said, "Why, this ought to have been given to the poor." Not that he had respect for the poor; but he was a thief to begin with. (He carried the money.) And he said, "This ought to have been sold instead."

And Jesus said, "Let her alone!" For she anointed Him unto His burial. See? This woman was so grateful that her sins were forgiven, that she spent all the money that she had, and took an alabaster box and broke it and poured the ointment which just filled the room with odour, the fine perfume of this myrrh, with which she had anointed Him for His death. Now, see, she did the service, not knowing what she was doing, but she was so grateful to God.

And if you're so grateful for Christmas, it's not to say, "I gave the Joneses a gift; and they gave me one back, I'll see what I've got in the morning." Why don't you open up your heart and see what's in there, find out what you've got in here. And if you find it empty, with just imaginary creeds and cares of the world, why not ask Christ to fill it tonight? Tonight, so that you can get the real meaning of Christmas. It's Christ in you; God, dwelling in the human heart. That's what Christmas really means.

But, you see, today we become so negative. It's the devil getting us through there (there are painted candy sticks, and a reindeer and a whiskered man, and he flies through the air like an aeroplane, and visits the whole world and every home with a little bundle of toys on his back, and visits every child), and it's just a lie! It's just, right out, a lie. See? But why? The devil did that so he could twist the minds of the people.

The commercial world got into it and they make enough through Christmas time that they can retire the rest of the year, almost. I talked to a merchant the other day. He said, "You give me these two weeks, and if I didn't have to keep my band here, I'd wait till next Christmas; I could go fishing, do whatever I want to, till next Christmas." He said, "But I keep the boys going, keep them here just enough to keep my business open, and it keeps my hands paid off and things." He said, "I don't make

anything till Christmas time comes along." You see, it's become a great commercial thing, when it ought to be a worship.

Now, God so anointed Jesus with the fullness of Himself, that He was God's Gift to the world. The wise men are clearly identified, in that they're offering their gift to Him; showing that in their hearts they knew who he was, and what He was going to do for them. So, no wonder, the first thing they did, was to fall down, perfectly in order, and worship Him. Before they could even understand it, they fell down and worshipped Him and then presented their gifts. That's the way to have a real Christmas: worship Him, then present your gift; presenting your body as a living sacrifice, wholly acceptable to God.

But d'you know what, after the wise men did that? The father and mother of Christ (the foster father, of course) and also the mother, because God was both His father and mother, accepted these gifts from these wise men. No wonder they were called wise men. They were wise. They really had wisdom. If men today would just be that wise, just as wise! It takes a wise man to come to Christ. A man that turns away from Him is an unwise man. But it takes a wise man to come to Christ.

Now notice the wise men identifying Him what He would be; and we find through the Scripture that's exactly what He was: *Deity in service for death*. What for? Deity in service to God for death. Jesus was Deity in service for death, to redeem the world. But what did the world do? They refused it. They rejected it. Why? Some of them, a big part of them, did that because of this: because He did die! They said, "He couldn't be Deity and die." The man (the body) was not Deity, but Deity was in the body. This body has to perish. The very Christ that's in you is the only thing that can raise you up. That's Deity, God in you.

Now, notice! It's the same now, they reject identified Deity. Do you get it? They will certainly put their name on a church book and say, "I'll try to live by this creed." They'll take an oath by this. But when it comes to accepting Deity, and expressing back the same kind of a gift as they did! - You are identified by your gift, that you give your entire being to It, to identified Deity. Then you identify yourself with the Deity, by giving all you are, what you are, to Deity Himself.

Now, Christ in this day, that we now live in, is still identifying Himself: Deity, among the people. He's still Deity, because He is the Word. And when we see the Word living Itself out, then we know that man can't do that. It's Deity, the Word being made manifest by man. And Jesus said Himself. "The Son can do nothing in Himself. I can do nothing, I'm a man," Jesus said, "But My Father that dwelleth in Me, He showeth Me all things that He Himself doeth." Amen! There you are! What was it! Deity being identified in man. Now, the same thing is happening today; that Deity, the promised Word for this day, can identify Itself in you. Amen! Then can you hold to It, show that you believe in It, give It Deity, believe It, serve It, and be ready to die out to yourself and your own thoughts? But today It's rejected as It was then.

Notice, God guided the Magi with those gifts. For practically two years, they followed that star. See? And that shows it couldn't be one of the natural things that happened. See? Because if the stars, following their orbits, would have crossed, it would have shown there was something different. Because those Magi saw it a long time before it happened, and knew the stars had to cross that way, see, in the orbits they were following. And they crossed precisely at Bethlehem at that time. So the Magi started from the east beforehand, knowing that these heavenly bodies were moving that way.

Now, God guided the Magi because they had the right gifts. God guided these wise men because they had the right identified gifts to identify His Son. Ooh, my! Do you get it? **Wise men today, wise in the Name of the Lord, not with some fictitious something, but with the gift that God promised for this day, God will guide you to identify that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever. There you are, wise men!**

God guided those gifts because they were the gifts to identify Him. Wise men, today, who can look away from churchianity and all the things of the world, God guides to the Living Word of God! And God will identify His Son by His Word, because that's what He is. "I and My Father are one." And, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." And the same Word today, He's the same yesterday, today and for ever. And a wise man follows That, because That's what God takes care of to identify Himself by It. Amen! A gift, a real, identified gift of God. God brings that through everything like that, to identify Himself by.

And that's how Christ was identified: by gold, myrrh, and frankincense, by those men foreshadowing and showing in type what His life was to be. See? Deity manifested for service, to die that He might redeem the nation, because He was to "save His people from their sins." Not save the world, save His people from **their** sins. The Bible says here, "For in His Name shall the Gentiles trust." See? The Gentiles will trust in His Name. Amen! In other words, the Bride, the **called-out** of the Gentiles, will be trusting in the Name of Jesus Christ, "In His Name shall the Gentiles trust." Now, God guided them (the Magi), for the gifts that they were giving were fitting to the time.

Notice! As I've said, God divided His Word at the beginning, in Genesis. I can take Genesis and show you every age in the Bible, down to this age here. All the cults and things we have today, I can show you exactly where they were in Genesis. See?

God gave His Word, so much here, so much here, and so much here, for each age. And then He sent a prophet down, anointed to make that Word come to pass, and it supports the other one that was coming. See, like the Messiah, It always supported every prophet in his own life, his own being, the Word that was given for that day; he came and fulfilled

that written Word and foretold what the other one was going to be. And every one of them spoke of Him (amen), because He was the fullness, He was the Head of the prophets, He was the Word of God, He was the prophets. Amen! There He is. Notice! How wonderful, what He was to each one of those prophets!

Then when He came, He was the fullness of all the prophets manifested, because they were the Word of the Lord; and He said Himself, "If you call those gods, whom the Word of God came to, how can you condemn Me when I say, "I'm the Son of God?" See, even those in that age were identified as gods, God Himself calling them "gods". What were they? They were manifestations of His Word. And here was He, the **Fullness** of the Word, Deity embodied, Deity manifested in the flesh.

Watch! For those gifts that these men brought, they couldn't have brought them to a prophet. It wouldn't have been right. See? Those gifts couldn't have gone to Elijah, they couldn't have gone to Moses, they had to come to Him. And seeing those gifts were strictly meant for that day, and it was meant to identify Who He was by those gifts, then here came God along and protected them. And He kept the Magi, two years down there, until they found the Perfect Light. How fitting!

It's the same thing today. We've got people that are just as loyal, nice people, genuine people. But, you see, in that there's going to be something come forth, God's always done that, to identify this day. This is the day of which these things are spoken to happen. There won't be many, just a very, very few that'll be saved. **The Bible says so. There'll be just a handful.**

Jesus Himself said, "As it was in the days of Noah, ..." - wherein eight souls were saved. Eight souls out of a generation likened to this. "As it was in they days of Noah..." What was it? Great, cultured people, great workers, great builders, great everything as they had. They made this civilization just like it, great things that they had. "And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the Son of Man." See? And God had Noah to identify His promised Word. It was very fitting. The ark was fitting to the Word of God that He spoke, that He "will destroy man." But He saved what He could.

Now, these wise men, in bringing their gifts, their gifts identified what It was, and that's the reason God protected those gifts through every move that they made. He protected It until they arrived with those gifts, because they were fitting for the time. Does my church understand that? That's what's going on now! I hope it isn't going over your head. I have to speak it in a parable, almost, you see. But do you see? The very things that are happening are fitting for this day of Laodicea. It's the fitting time, that's the reason God has protected It. See, He has brought It right through to identify Himself. Gifts, though it cost a death, put a stumbling block in their way. It's a fitting time, that's right, fitting for the day. That's the reason God has protected It, the way He has. He will protect It, until His purpose is served.

Oh, I read a story that came to my mind not long ago, of something on that order. There's been a great city, here in this nation, New York. And it was Christmas eve. And there was a poor family, low. Daddy, he had TB, and his wife had TB. They had been underprivileged, and he was weakly, so nobody would hire him. He had no education, and people didn't want him.

He was just an outcast, become a tramp. You know what a tramp is. He'll just go by and pick up something, and pass it to get what he can. What little royalty they make on it, they try to live by it, like a peddler or something on the street. They'll go and buy some pins and needles and thimbles, and whatever they can, and take them and maybe buy for a penny a pack, and sell for a nickel; and make four cents on the pack, and maybe in the course of a day. You say, "That's a great commission." But just think, all he'd sell in a day. Maybe he'd make twenty, thirty cents a day, and he had a family.

And the little wife, being weakly, she died.

And it was coming up to Christmas time. And the little girl, from malnutrition, not having the right food and things, she took TB also. And she was a little fellow, about eight or nine years old, or ten. And she had never had a doll for Christmas. And that's what she wanted for a gift, a doll.

And the father, not able to give her medical attention and so forth, had seen the little girl was going fast, and he tried his best to get enough money together to get her a doll for Christmas, just enough to buy her a little doll! And so as Christmas time was coming on, the bad weather set in, and the little girl developed some kind of a pneumonia; and, my, just a few weeks before Christmas. And the father, of course, broken-hearted went to his little tin can and got the money out. And he thought of his little girl, and she wanted a doll like all little girls. See, it's a little mother coming on!

You notice how a little girl, she goes to a doll, because that's her nature, she's a coming mother. She will be a mother some day if she lives and everything. You know, it's her nature. That's the reason a little girl likes a little doll, she wants to take care of it; because, after all, she's potentially a little mother.

And she wanted a little doll, and she had never had one. And Daddy had saved everything he could to get her a little doll. And, so, she died.

And the father had a kind of lapse of mind. His wife had been taken, his little girl, and his mind got to a place where he'd go to bed every night and talk to this little girl, though she had been buried. But he thought he was talking to her, and telling her, "Now, Honey, it won't be long, and Daddy's going to get you this dolly for Christmas. And Daddy's promised you the dolly, and I'm going to get it."

Finally, Christmas arrived. And, of course, you know how it is. The rich had their big parties and candles burning, and there were great high masses in the churches, and talking about Jesus and so forth (the

churches were), and going through all kinds of rituals, and masses, and singing, and carols, and everything. Little did they know what was going on back in the alley, behind all this.

This little fellow back there got beside himself. He wanted that little girl to have that doll so badly, because she had begged so for this little doll. So he went out and bought her a little rag doll, a little thing, probably for about thirty cents, a little dirty something that he'd bought down on the side of the street. And it was a really cold night, the blizzard winds blowing, the snow falling hard there, and New York right on the coast.

And the streets were filling up; and there were people in their great, I believe, limousine cars; and drunken parties out drinking, the celebration of the birth of Christ; and of these things that we speak of tonight, trying to think that that's the right way to do it; just drink off their old sorrows and things, and that that's the way to do it.

Standing in the store the other day, I heard a woman talking about two girls that met and wanted to know what each had got for their daddy. And one of them said she'd got him a box of a certain kind of cigarettes. And the other one said she's got him a fifth of whisky and a pack of cards. Now if that isn't giving a memorial gift for the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ! And that's the way it goes, you see, it's just a big heap of tinsel. It hasn't got Christmas in it at all!

And so we find now that this little man wandered along. And he knew in his heart his little girl was gone, but he went and bought the doll anyhow. And he thought, "I'll just start walking, I'll find her somewhere. She'll be along the street here and I'll find her." And he started walking.

He couldn't fool himself; she wasn't back there in the little shanty and in the little ragged, dirty bed; but, she was buried. So, he knew. He thought he'd find her on the street. He said, "I'll just keep walking." And he was going down through the alleys, while they were singing their carols and going on. And going down the alley, carrying this little, dirty doll, he was holding it in his coat, up to his heart, thinking of his little girl.

And finally a policeman happened to see him (and the policeman had had a few drinks himself), and he ran into the alley and grabbed the old man and turned him around. He said, "What are you doing hanging about here?"

He said, "I'm taking this little doll, Sir, to my little girl."

He said, "Well, where do you live?" And he told him where he lived. He said, "Well, you're going away from that place, you're drunk. Go back the other way."

He said, "Sir, I'm not drunk. I promised my little girl get her a gift for Christmas." And said, "An appropriate gift for a little girl is a little doll."

And he said, "Let me see it." So he showed him a little, dirty-like, rag doll. And he was holding it next to his bosom, holding the little doll as he

went. So the policeman, half drunk himself, shoved him on and started down. The old man went down the alley, and snow was falling fast.

Well, the midnight parties broke up. The next morning, the snow had let up, the sun had come out. And so, all the people from their great gaiety parties were with ice sacks on their heads, from too much drinking and celebration of the birth of Christ. And many of them were hoarse from carrying on, from all the goings-on.

But way down in the alley, they found the old man. And when they turned him over, he had the little doll up next to his heart. I suppose he took his gift to her. He found her in a Land not here. He took the gift. It was an appropriate gift. (God is merciful.) Yet it cost him his death. There's no other way in the world he could have given her the gift, she was buried. But the only way he could do it, would be to go like that. The little doll didn't mean too much, I reckon, the little dirty-faced doll, but why did he do it? It fulfilled a promise he had made. No matter what the people thought about it, his dirty hands on a little, grubby doll, but it fulfilled a promise to his little girl.

Sometimes they look upon the Gospel as singing, playing; they didn't want It when God brought It, but it fulfilled a promise that He would give His Son. And, you know what? They left Him to die, too, just like a tramp on the street. That's exactly right, they left Him to die like a tramp on the street. And today they treat Him like a tramp on the street. But He fulfilled what He was supposed to do. He was the Gift that God promised to the world.

Tonight, let me take Him as my Saviour into my heart. Let me walk in the face of my death, or whatever it is, like that. I promised my life to Him. I'm going to take it to Him. No matter how I have to go, if I have to go through death, if I have to be shot; no matter what takes place, whether I have to be laughed at, called "crazy," anything, excommunicated from the rest of the Christian churches, and so forth; it's a gift of God that I hold in my heart. He gave it; I want to take it to Him.

Let us bow our heads just a moment:

Appropriate gifts I speak on, it was an appropriate gift because she was a little girl, a little mother (would have been), and an appropriate gift was the little doll. An appropriate gift that God, the Creator, could give to His creation, would be a Saviour to save us from the condition it was in. I wonder, tonight, as we're approaching Christmas now (and I suppose it'd be the last message we will hear between now and Christmas, unless we get the radio message of someone).

I wonder, tonight, if we've accepted the Gift that God promised us: Eternal Life by believing on Christ and receiving the Holy Spirit. If you haven't and you'd like to accept God's real, true, Christmas gift, would you raise your hand? Say, "Brother Branham, I don't know, I've sometimes believed It. And I've watched what things I do. And I kind of, a little bit, doubt." Don't doubt It any more, friends.

See, it's too late to go on doubting now. Let's be really sure of it. Say, "Pray for me, Brother Branham, and I want to accept God's Gift to the world, Jesus Christ. I want this to be a real Christmas. I accept the Holy Spirit in my heart. That could cradle me through all the storms of life, and some day I can come into His Presence with this gift of Eternal Life. He'll accept me upon that basis, that's the only way He'll do it."

All right, you've got the right Gift tonight? The right kind of an attitude? "Father, I'll follow You wherever You go. Whatever You say 'Do,' I'll do it. Whatever Your Word says for me to do, I'll do it. Yes, Sir, I don't care what anybody else says, I'm going to do it, because I want Your Gifts; it's Life, and Christ is the Word."

If you can't believe all the Word, and say, "Well, I don't know, I believe this, I believe that, but I just can't go along with that," you're like the seventy that went away. They couldn't accept all the Word and receive Christ in the fullness of His Deity and His service, and ready to die as He did for you.

Then would you just put up your hand, with your head bowed, and say, "Pray for me"? God bless you. And God bless you. God bless you. God bless you, little girl. Oh, God bless you. Yes, I see your hand. The Lord bless you, sure. This little Gift, of Christ, that God sent to the World, was identified by the Magi. His Own Life identified It, His death identified It, His resurrection identified It, your accepting identified It, and He identifies Himself with you, that you are His and He is yours. If you're not really identified by the reaction of the Spirit of God working in you in this Christmas season, my It come to you now.

Heavenly Father, we stagger like the tramp on the street, nobody having had any use for him. The world went right on in their foolish preparations, and so are they doing tonight, Lord. Sometimes we feel like that tramp, but we've accepted a Gift. So we pray, Father, that You'll make us a gift of a Life, to this dying world. Many here have raised their hands that they want the Gift of God, that he Himself had to give His only begotten Son, Who came down to become a man. He stooped so low, came so low and so humble, that He didn't even have a bed to be born in. A cow or a horse or some animal had to give up its manger, step aside, because human beings had got into such a condition. He came down in a manger, a little old cave stable on the side of the hill there in Bethlehem, where a harlot's son had founded the little city many years before.

And now, Lord, we find out that one night, a cold night, it was said to Him, "Rabbi, we want to go home with You tonight."

And He said, "Well, now, the birds they have nests, and the foxes have dens, but I don't even have a place to lay My head." And that's the way they let Him die, like the tramp on the street.

Heavenly Father, can the Christian, can the people today see that That is that great Gift? And many here, tonight, more than a dozen, I estimate, raised their hands, showing they wanted to receive the Holy Spirit. May it be just as with the wise men. Maybe none of the rest of the

congregation will even see what goes on. And this Star, this mystic Light passed over the observatories for two years, where people even kept time then (the four watches), keeping time by the stars. Nobody, no historian wrote of it. No one knew anything about it, and yet It was there. And these wise men, with their appropriate gifts, were guided right through to it. May that same Light come into every heart here tonight, that's sitting present. There may be no emotion, there may not be this, or that, and maybe no one else would know it, just as with the wise men. But may something be so settled in these men, women, boys and girls' hearts tonight, that that Gift of God will anoint their life; that from this night on, they'll be changed. They won't be any more as they used to be. They'll each be a changed creature from now on. May they, like the wise men, turn aside and not go back to the fashions of the world (and Herod in the king's palace), but, "being warned of God," turn aside. Grant it, Lord.

Tonight I pray that every wise man, boy, or girl, in here tonight, man or woman that's wise enough to turn aside from the things of the world, doesn't go back any more after this day. After the passing of this day and night, I pray they will no more go back to the things of the world, but may they be wise. And this little mystic Voice that caused them to raise their hand and say, "Yes, I want God's Gift," may that same thing that caused them to raise their hand identify them tonight with His death, burial, and Resurrection, by giving them the Holy Spirit. May they turn aside.

May these women here tonight, Lord, that have had such a hard time to keep from identifying with the world, let their hair grow, and dress ladylike, and take off this make-up, this artificial stuff, that shows (it kind of identifies them, that they're not healthy) that there's something wrong. And may, tonight, this little mystic Light, Lord, that caused them to raise their hands, cause them to say, "Lord, I'm turning aside tonight from the things of the world."

These men that haven't had the real something, that would talk to their wives and cause them to turn aside; from the things that they do. May we all together, Lord, just turn aside tonight, being warned of God by the strange little message of the Light of God that strikes upon our hearts. May we turn aside tonight and live for You the rest of our days, go home with You by another way than that on which we have been travelling. Grant it, Lord. Make us better Christians, every Christian here tonight, Father, that's accepted You and believes on You. They've tried to live a Christian life, but tonight, may they turn aside, may they receive that Gift.

O God, it's a despised way. Women will be called "old fashioned," they'll be called everything. And men will be called "fanatics." But we're ready, Lord.

Holy Spirit, turn us aside right now. Turn me aside, Lord. I don't even want to go any way that would lead me away from You, Lord, I want to go just the way You'd have me to go. I want the gift of my heart to be so

perfect, that it'll identify You, Lord, on earth, that You're not dead. You're living.

You're the God of the living, not the God of the dead. The dead are covered all over with flies, blowflies, generating germs and more blowflies; like the man taking his first drink, smoking his first cigarette, telling his first lie, goes out on his wife the first time; or the wife that goes out on the husband or does the things that are wrong; just as if a blowfly struck them, and they accumulate blows and filth, because it's on a dead soul on the inside. Evil spirits go off and one evil spirit causes him to do something; and another one comes and causes him to do something else because they did this.

God, may they turn aside and come to Life. May they rise, and the angels of God come down with the gift of Eternal Life, Lord, and go from victory on to victory. Grant it, Father. We turn aside, tonight, from the things of the world and the cares of the world, warned of God that the time is at hand, Jesus is coming back to the earth. And may the great Holy Spirit give us, tonight, that Eternal Life that we're looking for. Grant it, Lord. We're praying that You'll grant these blessings to us as we ask them in Jesus Christ's Name.

With our heads bowed:

Wise men long ago followed that Light to where they found the Perfect Light. And may the little Light, tonight, that made you put up your hand, or maybe It struck you, but you never even raised your hand, may that Light guide you right on to that Perfect Light.

Let's just all stand, for a little consecration service.

Let's make our little heart here, tonight, a dwelling place for Christ. Remember, tonight, my odd little story of the tramp. Tonight, really, Jesus Christ is that tramp on the street. That's right, He was a tramp on the street. Oh, yes, we say we serve Him. Sure. All the tinsel and glamour, that's not He. That's not He. He had to die to bring you this Gift, not a doll, but Life. He had to die in order to do it, to get to you, the only way he could get to you. He couldn't just come here and be a perfect man, as He was, and get to you. He couldn't do it that way. He had to die to do it, to get the Gift of God to you. Like the tramp had to die to get the little doll to his girl, Christ had to die to get God to you. We want to accept It tonight. And I believe - with our heads bowed, let's just raise our hands to God and consecrate our lives anew, right here tonight.

O Gracious God, we want Your Gift. I'm here, at this Christmas season, Lord, as I realize and look upon the earth and see the tinsel and the glamour of the day, I can just see out yonder; as the Bible says, in this Laodicean age, You're outside Your church. You're rejected, a fugitive to Your Own church and to Your Own people. You're rejected. A fugitive is something that's refused, and You're refused in Your Own church. You're refused amongst Your people. They don't want You, Lord, and they've left You, like the tramp on the street. God, You went on dying anyhow, that You might bring the Gift of God to us. And we humbly accept It, Lord. I

pray that You'll just fill our hearts and lives. And turn us aside, from this night on, and may we be wholly Yours, as we consecrate ourself to You.

Receive me, Lord. Many are the mistakes of life that I've made. And, dear God, as I stand here on this sacred spot where the Gospel's been preached and where we've seen You here, even in great Light that shone upon them. And we're so grateful for this, Lord. I consecrate myself for this Christmas, not as the world would do or to turn new pages. Lord, I just want to accept Your Son. I want to accept Your Gift, Lord.

I want to accept the Gift of Eternal Life through Christ. And I, truly, Lord, accept the Gift of Christ to me, to try to win others to Him. Go with each one.

Make the little housewife so sweet and humble, that she'll be able to lead others to You. The Gift that You give her, that feminish little ladylike, may she be so ladylike till the neighbours will see her and want to be like her.

Make the man, the shop-worker, whoever he is, Lord; make him a humble life, like Christ, that others might see. We don't know where those people are standing out there, Father, but we never want to leave the grand, old highway; but we'll lean backwards, lean forwards, reach for out anywhere to get a soul. Put that within our reach, Lord, we pray. And give us the life that would cause people to want to live like that, as we consecrate ourselves to You tonight. In the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Now, if you'll bow your heads again, I want to wish each one of you a very merry Christmas.

May the great Christmas Present, the first one and the only, the original and the only one there is, Jesus Christ, be afresh in your heart tonight. May the Holy Spirit come to you and bring you ministering gifts and things from God, a gift that you might live a better life. That's what I want. I would rather have the Life of Christ in me to live a sweet and victorious life than I would all the gifts of healing, the gift of prophecy, all those other gifts; just give me Jesus. Let me live the Life, the Life is what I want to live. I want to live so others will know. That's my desire at Christmas, and I pray that's your desire. And I pray that God will give us His desire.

Now, let's have a word from the pastor, and dismissing. And God bless you. We'll see you Wednesday night, God willing.