

# **“How Far Will You Go to Find It?”**

Series: ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

December 5/6, 2009

## **1. The best gift is worth going out of your way for**

### **Matthew 2:1-2**

*Jesus was born in **Bethlehem** in Judea, during the reign of King **Herod**. About that time some **wise men** from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We **saw his star** as it rose, and we have come to **worship him**.”*

- Those who have it all are still searching
- It’s not enough to just see the star
- If you’re going to worship—you have to follow

## **2. Don’t settle for the gift everyone else wants**

### **Matthew 2:3-8**

*King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?” “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote: ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’” Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”*

- By trusting in wealth and possessions
- By trusting in power and authority

- By trusting in fame and celebrity

### **3. You'll know the real gift when you see him**

#### **Matthew 2:9-12**

*After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to **Bethlehem**. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with **joy!** They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of **gold, frankincense, and myrrh**. When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.*

- The real star always leads you to Jesus
- Jesus' celebrity was masked by humility
- Your gift to Jesus is recognition
- His gift to you is joy