

Choose Joy: *Pete Wilson*

Matthew 2:1-3, 7-12, 16 ¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." ³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." ⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were **overjoyed**. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

¹⁶When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

Matthew 6:19-21, 24 ¹⁹Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²⁴No one can serve two masters . . . You cannot serve both God and money.

Everybody has _____.

Your treasures _____ you.

Psalms 115:4-8 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak, eyes but do not see, ears but do not hear, hands but do not feel, feet but do not walk. Those that make them are like them. So are all who trust in them.

Consumerism is the equation of personal joy with _____ and the purchase of material possessions.

Christmas is the equation of personal joy with the _____ and worship of Jesus Christ.

John 15:11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.