

**From Christmas to Communion**  
(or – **From the Cradle to the Cross to the Crown**)  
*Matthew 1:21-23; 2:11; Luke 2:34-35; & I Corinthians 11:26*  
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Introduction: We come this morning one week before Christmas, to rejoice in the fact that God sent His Son as the Babe of Bethlehem some 2,000 years ago. But we also remember that God sent His Son to be the Christ of Calvary. Hence we observe communion this morning as we connect in our minds & hearts the truth that “...*the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world*” (I John 4:14). It has been said that “Wise men still seek (& worship) Him”! Did you come here this morning to worship Christ? I trust that is the desire of your heart. I have entitled the message, “From Christmas to Communion” (or – From the Cradle to the Cross to the Crown). We will examine briefly 4 passages of Scripture as we consider that which was **prophesied** about His birth, **pictured** in His gifts, **proclaimed** at His presentation (in the Temple), & **portrayed** by His table (communion).

I. Consider that which was **prophesied** about His birth (Matthew 1:18-25).

A. His *virgin* birth was prophesied (:22-23):

1. A sign was offered to the house of David – see Isaiah 7:10-14.
2. A Savior was offered to the whole world – see Luke 2:10, 14.

B. His *virtuous* names were prophesied (:21, 23):

1. His name is “*Jesus*” > “Jehovah saves” (O.T. “*Joshua*”).
2. His name is “*Emmanuel*” > “With us (is) God” (O.T. “*Immanuel*”).

II. Consider that which was **pictured** in His gifts (Matthew 2:1-12).

A. The wise men offered a *gift* of gold to the Christ child:

1. Gold was the symbol of royalty & speaks of Christ’s **majesty**.
2. They were recognizing Christ as “King.”

Application: Our worship of Christ as **King** should result in our *service* as His ambassadors.

B. The wise men offered a gift of *frankincense* to the Christ child:

1. Frankincense was the symbol of deity & speaks of Christ’s **sovereignty** (He is God).
2. They were recognizing Christ as “Lord” (cf. Isaiah 9:6).

Application: Our worship of Christ as **Lord** should result in our *surrender* to His authority.

C. The wise men offered a gift of *myrrh* to the Christ child:

1. Myrrh was the symbol of humanity (frailty) & speaks of Christ’s **substitutionary death**.
2. They were recognizing Christ as “Savior.”

Application: Our worship of Christ as **Savior** should result in our *showing* Him adoration.

III. Consider that which was **proclaimed** at His presentation (in the temple) – (Luke 2:34-35)

A. Christ is appointed as the Rock of stumbling:

1. He is referred to as “*a stone of stumbling... a rock of offense*” (Isa. 8:14-15 & Rom. 9:32-33).
2. He is referred to as “*the chief cornerstone*” (I Peter 2:6).

Application: Christ “divides” mankind > those who reject Him will fall (“*stumbling stone*”); those who receive Him will arise unto salvation (“*chief cornerstone*”).

B. Christ is appointed as the reason for separation;

1. A “*sign*” (a conspicuous or distinguished object; a miracle) resulting in those who either reject or receive Him.

2. A “*sign*” revealing the thoughts of men (“*What think ye of Christ?*” - Luke 22:42).

Application: “Never was a prophecy more exactly fulfilled than this. Thousands have rejected the gospel & fallen into ruin; thousands are still falling of those who are ashamed of Jesus; thousands blaspheme Him, deny Him, speak all manner of evil against Him, & would crucify Him again if He were in their hands; but thousands also ‘by’ Him are renewed, justified, & raised up to life & peace” (Barnes).

IV. Consider that which is **portrayed** by His table (communion) – (I Corinthians 11:23-34).

A. The representation of Christ’s broken body > the bread:

1. Speaks of His **incarnation** – John 1:14; Matthew 1:23.

2. Speaks of His **humiliation** – Philippians 2:5-8.

3. Speaks of His **substitution** (“*broken for you*”) – I Corinthians 11:24.

4. Speaks of His **crucifixion** – I Peter 3:18.

B. The representation of Christ’s shed blood > the cup:

1. Speaks of **propitiation** – appeased God’s wrath (Romans 3:24-26; I John 2:2).

2. Speaks of **purification** – cleansed our sins (Revelation 1:5).

Conclusion: Wise men still seek to worship Him. Are you worshipping Christ this morning? Consider this communion table. Here we have the symbols representing Christ’s broken body & His shed blood. Having considered those unique gifts presented to the Christ child at His birth, reflect with me upon the gift of myrrh. It represented His humanity, His life one day to be given for the sin of the world (John 1:29). The gift of myrrh prophetically speaks of His coming substitutionary death. We now look back – not only to His birth some 2,000 years ago, but to His death, 33 years later. Truly He was born to die. Before we partake of the break, symbolizing His body & drink of the juice, symbolizing His blood, let’s do inventory of our lives. Consider the words of the song, “The Blood of Jesus.” Is that your testimony here today? Do you have the assurance of salvation; do you know that your sins have been forgiven? If not, why not call upon the Lord right now as you sit in your seat & ask Him to save you. If you are saved, will you humbly acknowledge & repent of any known sin in your life? Make sure that there is nothing between your soul & the Savior! I Corinthians 11:28 says, “*But let a man examine himself, & so let him eat of that bread, & drink of that cup.*” Let’s have a time of silent prayer & meditation so that we might be prepared to partake of the Lord’s Supper.