

Mid-week Stewardship Thought

Turning the World Upside Down

A king is born in a stable to less than affluent parents. Instead of press releases and television coverage, the news is announced by an angelic host to shepherds who probably could neither read nor write. No heads of state send greetings or gifts, but Magi from the East follow a star in the sky that leads them ever nearer to the Baby, until it stops right over the place where he lies. They open their treasures and present Him with their gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh. The opposite response sees a king who rages through the land, killing all male children under the age of two, because he fears that this new king is a danger to his throne.



Jesus, even at His birth, was causing the world to turn upside down. Nothing would ever be the same again. He taught us not only to love our friends but also to love our enemies. He said that our hearts should not be focused on getting rich. He told us that the last shall be first and the first, last (Mark 10:31).

He announced that it is better to give than to receive (Acts 20:35), and He spent His life giving – giving, in fact, His own life that we might receive eternal life. Now we respond. We love as He loves; we forgive because we are forgiven; we give because He has given and continues to give to us. The Apostle Paul said that we should *“be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and give Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”* (Ephesians 5:1). Through us, as we follow His command and example, He continues to turn the world upside down.

Prayer: Lord, help us not to live as the world lives, but help us to follow Your example. Amen.