

Wise Men Still Seek Him and Bring Him Gifts! Pt4
The Gift that Keeps on Giving!
Slide Notations

Recap... Wise Men... *Follow the signs of life that lead to God! Get to where He is as quickly as they can! Bring Him gifts suitable to who He is!*

Wise Men Bring... *Salvations to the Lover of Men's Souls! Gifts of Purity to the One who is Holy! "Strong-love" relationships to the God who is our "Friend!" Connections of sympathy, sacrifice, sharing, securing...*
When we love like He loved us we become "mimics..."

Let's add a fourth "perception" of Him so we can add to His "perfect gift" list!

Luke 22.42 Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless *not my will, but Yours, be done.*

"Not my will, but Yours" means... you keep on going when the strong-willed won't (CAN'T!)

Jesus gave God the perfect gift of obedience! And my yielded will is the perfect gift for Jesus!

Rom 12.2 (Personalized) *"I refuse to be taken in by the schemes to unite me with this world. My intent is to be changed from the old ways of living by the renewing of my mind, so that I can know the existence of, and the difference between, the good, acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

Col 4.12 Your friend, who himself is a slave of Christ, covers you and contends fervently for you in prayers, *that you may stand complete and overflowing in the whole will of God.*

We must know that there is a perfect will of God for our lives... One that we should pray for, and allow ourselves to be prayed over... So that when wills collide... we do the yielding... It's the perfect gift for the perfect God!

Battle of wills! God has a good, acceptable and perfect will for our lives! We have a good, acceptable and perfect will for us too! *Every Christian failure comes from the battle of those wills!*

"I know what You say, but I say- "I know that You want me to know what you say, but I say-

Somewhere we just have to stop and ask... Do we want to remain strong-willed... **or do we want the Strong-One's Will?"**

Battle of wills! Strong-willed #1: I'm sorry, but there are certain things I need, other things I just want, certain people I must know, certain experiences before I die... and I'm going after them with everything I have!"

Battle of wills! The Strong One's Will! Regarding *need*, your Father knows the things you have need of before you even ask... so don't be anxious about anything... the unsaved worry about things like that... your Father knows all the things you need... seek Him and His kingdom first and all things will be given you! **Matt 6.8-33**

Regarding *want*, learn to be content in whatever state you are in! We brought nothing into the world and we're not taking anything out! Having what you need, be content. People pursuing the wrong things fall into snares and foolish and hurtful lusts. Flee that pathway! **Ph 4.11 1Tim6.8** Don't covet, for life is not defined by what you have, even if it's a lot! **Lk 12.15** Don't covet stuff, be content with the things you have because you always have Me and I'll never leave you or forsake you! **Heb 13.5** *Fear not it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom!*

Regarding *people*, don't let your faith be corrupted with favoritism for certain kinds of people. It's a self-serving and evil consideration, a sin with judgment! **Jam 2.1-9** There is no respect of persons with God **Rom 2.11 Eph 6.9 Col 3.25** And if God is for you... who else matters? **Rom 8.31**

Regarding *experiences*, "I gave my heart to know wisdom and pleasure and drunkenness and great accomplishment and wickedness and benevolence and riches and contentment... I searched the world over for meaning... the end of it all is this: Fear God. Keep His words. This is the full purpose of man!" -Solomon, Ecclesiastes

The strong-willed merely shows his weakness and weakens his own life! And he holds back the perfect gift... the only one that will keep him going when all is gone!

Strong-willed #2: "Jesus is just alright with me... I really appreciate what He did for me, and my family, but I'm sure that He knows how real this life can get – I don't want to get so caught up in "God" that I am just not competitive in the real world anymore!"

The Strong One's Will! Jesus is the image of God and the One who made everything that exists. And He is the Head of the church, the Arch, the First from the dead; *so that in all things He has preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness of content and completion dwell. Col 1.15-19* I'm not interested in excellency of speech or wisdom... I am determined not to know any thing among you, except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. **1C2.2** There is nothing else in this life to glory in but the cross of Jesus by whom the world is dead to me and I to it! **Gal 6.14** When it came to worldly aplomb and ability, I was on top... but what people count as success I counted as lost time and pursuit! It's all a detriment to the most excellent thing of life, knowing Him! I willingly gave it all up and count it as garbage compared to knowing Him! **Phil 3.4-8**

The strong-willed need to make the tree good, along with it's fruit... Or determine it's not good enough to pursue with a whole heart... because there's a gift for the Strong One stuck on the fence!

Strong-willed #3: "Enough faith is good enough! As long as I maintain faith enough to meet my needs and can measure some level of growth... It is enough to get me through and let me live a normal kind of life."

The Strong One's Will! When it comes to knowing Him and obtaining His life, I live like I've not gotten hold of any of it! I live in constant pursuit of Him so that I can lay hold on the very reason He laid hold of me! Listen! I do not count myself to have comprehended or apprehended anything... but this one thing I do, I neglect and lose from my mind "things that are done, attained and accomplished," so that I can stretch forward into the future unhindered... I impel myself toward the goal for the reward of the high calling of God that's been returned to us in Christ Jesus... and let all of us who want to be... complete be minded the very same way... and if in any of this you are otherwise minded, *let* God reveal it to you! Regardless of what you think you have attained – let us go on by the same standard, *thinking forward*, and aligning ourselves with those who do! **Phil 3.10-17**

The best way to pull this perfect gift out of the bag for Jesus is to... run with others running to give Him the same gift!

Strong-willed #4: "A little worldliness won't hurt me. As long as I maintain a balance, don't go overboard with any particular thing, I'll be okay. In fact... a little bit of the secular keeps me in touch with the reality of the world!"

The Strong One's Will!

Don't you know that "philos" with the world order will make you an enemy of God? **Jam 4.4** I beg you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. **1Pet2.11** If it's not of faith it's sin! **R14.23** Stand firm in the liberty Jesus has given you and don't become entangled again in the yoke of bondage... why will you let anything or anyone hinder you in obeying the truth? A little leaven affects the whole lump. **Gal 5.1-9** Purge the leaven and be a new, unleavened, lump. **1Cor 5.6-8**

The perfect gift for the Strong-One is a strong-will... turned against every compromise of God's perfect will for mankind!

When Jesus prayed, "Not My will but Yours be done..." He gave God the gift of His perfect obedience... God gave Him the ability to go beyond all human endurance... and Jesus gave to God what He loves most – *us!*

When we say, "Not my will but Yours be done..." We give God the gift of maturing obedience and God gives us the One thing that will keep us going when no one else does!

His unbreakable will that includes His plans for our good, for a successful end, the place beyond human ability and endurance!