

**Title: Giving Wholeheartedly.**

**Scriptures:** Exodus 25:2, 8(Complete Jewish Bible- CJB), Exodus 36:2-7 (CJB)

Living wholeheartedly is lived out mostly in two very different areas of our lives: **service and generosity.**

Matthew 2:1-2,9-11 (NKJV)

In the passage above we see the connection between worship and giving.

THREE THINGS FROM THE PASSAGE ABOVE

1. **Jesus was the object of their focus.**
* His sighting was first mentioned unlike the shepherds whose focus was on Mary and Joseph (v.11) compared with Luke 2:15-16.
* What do you see when you come into the sanctuary? The preacher? The latest fashions? The Worship leader?
1. **They worshipped by prostrating.**
* There’s an acknowledgement that they were in the presence of a Higher Being, in this case God, The Most High.
1. **They opened their treasures and presented to Him gifts suitable for Deity.**
* Notice that the kind of gifts they gave is indicative of their preparation to give something worthy of a King, His age notwithstanding!

GIVING IS FIRST AND FORMEOST AN ACT OF WORSHIP

1. Abraham was asked to give his only son as a sacrifice Genesis 22:1-2 (NKJV).
* Abraham was willing to give what he had in order to receive what God had for him.
1. David would not offer to God that which cost him nothing 1 Chronicles 21:24
2. The woman with the alabaster box of Luke 7:43-47 (MSG).
* Stinginess towards God is as a result of ingratitude; and faith expresses itself in works of gratitude. “Faith without works is dead”.