

# Offering Gifts to god

Nativity Feast 2012

# Can we offer gifts to god?

“Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold, spices in great quantity, and precious stones. There never again came such abundance of spices as the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon” (1 King 10:10)



# Can we offer gifts to god?

“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” (Matt. 5:23-24)



# What gift can we offer?

- Money
- Time
  - **“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Eph. 5:15-16)**
- Spiritual gifts
  - **“Give to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!” (Ps. 96:8,9)**

# What gift can we offer?

- Spiritual gifts (cont'd)
  - **“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.” (Heb. 13:15)**
  - **“So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.” (Exo. 34:8)**

# Things we should consider when offering gifts to god

1. He is the source of our giving

**“we offer unto You Your gifts  
from what is Yours...”**

(Liturgy of St. Basil)

# Things we should consider when offering gifts to god

2. They should be for Him alone

**“But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.”**

(Matt. 6:3-4)

# Things we should consider when offering gifts to god

3. Our gifts should be offered from the heart

## Story of Moses in Hebrew folklo





# Things we should consider when offering gifts to god

4. We shouldn't compare/criticize gifts with our neighbors

**“Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.” (Lk. 21:3-4)**

**“Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” (Jn. 12:5)**

**“Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.” (Jn. 12:7-8)**

# Things we should consider when offering gifts to god

## 5. We shouldn't try to bribe God

**“For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe” (Deut. 10:17)**

**“He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, But he who hates bribes will live.” (Prov. 15:27)**

# Things we should consider when offering gifts to god

6. God doesn't force us to offer to Him

**“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence.”**

(Matt. 23:25)

# Things we should consider when offering gifts to god

7. He accepts all of our gifts

