

Travel Expenses

*On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary,
and they bowed down and worshiped him.*

*Then they opened their treasures and presented him
with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

Matthew 2:11 (NIV)

Many people who use their vehicles for business purposes receive travel expenses from their employers to cover the cost of mileage. Also when a client is taken out for lunch or overnight accommodation is needed on longer trips these costs are also covered for the employee.

As I read the Christmas story once again in Matthew's Gospel the thought occurred to me that Joseph and Mary were going to make a flight into the foreign country of Egypt to protect the child Jesus from the insane King Herod.

It is very possible that Joseph would have trouble getting work in a foreign country where he likely did not speak the language nor knew much about the customs and culture. Perhaps he found a Jewish community there that would take him, his wife and their young son in and help them survive.

The fact remains that money would be needed to fund the flight to Egypt and very possibly the stay there. Being poor they would not have resources for such a trip. How convenient it was that costly gifts were brought by the Magi for the child Jesus a day or two prior to being needed.

Mary and Joseph were learning that when God calls you to do something out of the ordinary He will make the necessary provision to accomplish His will. An angel had appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him to get up in the middle of the night and flee the country.

The extra barrage they packed to go to Egypt were the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. There is no such thing as "luck" in the vocabulary of God's people. Those gifts brought many hundreds of miles by the Magi were God's expense money arranged for in advance for the young couple as they went in obe-

dience to God's command. Never say that they were "lucky" to have the gifts.

Do you know God's provision in your life that allows you to walk in obedience to His command? Those who are in His will know about the mysterious ways the Lord has to make provision for His people. Sometimes it is an unexpected advance as Mary and Joseph had, sometimes it is a job that will provide the needed funds.

The God Who directs the events of this life overrules the detail in His children's circumstances to ensure that every need is supplied. It has ever been the case. Trust Him today for your needs as you review this enlightening detail of the Christmas story.

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