

December 24, 2017

## Faithful Seekers of the King

### Matthew 2:1-12

The popular Christmas carol “The Little Drummer Boy” is credited to Katherine K. Davis. The carol, written in 1941, tells the story of a “poor boy who couldn’t afford a gift for the newborn Christ Child, so he played his drum at the manger with Mary’s approval.” The boy says, “I played my best for Him,” and receives a smile from Baby Jesus in return.<sup>1</sup> The song implies that it is the magi who invite the drummer boy to join them in offering gifts fit for a king:

Come they told me, pa rum pum pum pum.  
A newborn King to see, pa rum pum pum pum.  
Our finest gifts we bring, pa rum pum pum pum.  
To lay before the King, pa rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum.  
When we come.

The contrast is striking. The magi, bearing the finest gifts, invite a poor child to join them, who then offers his best.

The student book writer says, “The generosity of the magi inspires our generosity. . . . The magi gave their best to Jesus, and we give our best to those with whom Jesus identified.”<sup>2</sup> In the story of the little drummer boy, Jesus would have identified with the magi and the poor boy for many and different reasons. Jesus “meets us where we are” as “we each follow our own path” to faith.<sup>3</sup>

Whether our gifts come from our wealth or our poverty, we offer them in the name of Jesus Christ. Whether our gifts are the finest quality or the best we can do, we offer them in the name of Jesus Christ. When we give of ourselves to love and serve our neighbors, we give glory to Jesus Christ, the King. Merry Christmas!

1. What parts of “The Little Drummer Boy” do you connect with? How does the invitation of a poor boy contrast with the narrative in Matthew’s Gospel?
2. In what ways would Jesus have identified with the magi? In what ways would Jesus have identified with the little drummer boy? When have you found Jesus meeting you where you are?
3. How does our love for and service with our neighbors bring glory to Jesus Christ?

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<sup>1</sup>From “Katherine K. Davis—The Little Drummer Boy ‘Almost Wrote Itself,’ ” by Kathy Warnes at History? Because it’s Here! ([historybecauseitshere.weebly.com/katherine-davis-the-little-drummer-boy.html](http://historybecauseitshere.weebly.com/katherine-davis-the-little-drummer-boy.html)).

<sup>2</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Winter 2017–2018, by Chuck Aaron (Cokesbury, 2017); page 31.

<sup>3</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*; page 29.