

From the very beginning of His earthly life, Christ is seen by all those who hold onto their earthly power as the ultimate threat. Think for a moment how Pilot quivered when Christ said, "My Kingdom is not of this world", and how Herod was so obsessed with power that he killed his own sons, and all those innocents to keep what was His for a few short breaths more.

The Feast of the Epiphany is the first moment in many when Christ is made known to the whole world. These Scholars from distant lands followed a star to a cave, and in it a stone water trough found a baby that was King of the Universe.

They lay prostrate and offered gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Gold, a symbol of earthly power and wealth, they gave it to a baby that created it as the world was brought from chaos to order. Frankincense a resin used in incense to remind a ruler that his power comes from and returns to God. A reminder God incarnate would not need, but who in His life, by constant example, teaches us always to take time and lift our hearts and minds to our Lord. Myrrh, a fragrance used to anoint the dead, a reminder to a new king of ones' mortality and judgement before the God who allowed you to rule over others and will hold you responsible. For us a clear foreshadowing of Christ's passion, death and resurrection.

I would like to leave you with some words by St. Maximus the Confessor:" We must offer our good and holy life as 'Gold', wisdom and spiritual contemplation as 'frankincense', and the mortification of our passions and the members of our bodies as 'myrrh'."

May the Love, Peace and Grace of God be with you,

Fr. Adam