



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." - Matthew 2:1-2 (NIV)

There will always be tension between:

EMPIRE: The drive to GRATIFY self

KINGDOM: The desire to GIVE freely

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
- John 3:16 (NIV)

How to know if you live for Empire:

Do you get DISTURBED when God gets BUSY ?

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied... - Matthew 2:3-5 (NIV)

Are APPEARANCES more important than ATHENTICITY ?

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."
- Matthew 2:7-8 (NIV)

How to get/stay Kingdom-minded:

Leave the TYRANTS for the TRUE KING

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.
- Matthew 2:9 (NIV)

Be generous out of WORSHIP, not OBLIGATION

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)

Every act of "generosity" is actually an INVESTMENT

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
- Matthew 25:37-39, 40 (NIV)