By Don Timmerman

“Where is the king?  Where is the king?”  That was the question of those who came from afar.  They came with the usual gifts given to kings.  These were precious ointments, incenses and frankincense.  The uniquely ragged and almost oversized-Bonsai-looking tree from which these precious substances are extracted is known scientifically as *Boswellia serrata*, and the medicine itself is more commonly known as frankincense.  It was considered more precious even than gold.  Frankincense was also considered to be amongst the highest valued currency traded throughout the Middle East.  It held value so immense that the high priests of Israel would burn it as a most precious sacrifice to God.

Plus, frankincense has proven scientifically to fight inflammation, help control blood lipids, prevent coronary plaque, protect the liver, and help relieve pain.  It was a gift usually given to kings of the world.

The ones who came to Jesus were called “Magi” – sorcerers, astrologers or priests, wise people who were considered of great importance.  They were supposedly able to answer many of the questions of the day.  They saw a particular star in the sky that led them to believe that it had great importance, and they wanted to find out what it meant.  They thought a king had been born.  So they went to see this new-born king.  They must have been surprised to find a child who was of the poorer class who did not come from nobility.  So where is the king?  Who is our king?  Who do we honor, and how do we honor the king?  We Christians believe that Christ is our king, but he is different from other kings.  He does not solicit riches and glory.  He lives doing good to others seeking nothing in return.  He is materially poor.  Unlike other leaders of other nations, he is not a warrior born to destroy his enemies nor one to make his followers rich and powerful.

I recently heard talk show host Rush Limbaugh say that it is alright to take from others by force for your own good.  He said the way to have peace in the Middle East between the Jews and the Palestinians is to let them militarily fight one another, and the victor will then decide what will be done to the land and who is to live there.  The one who has power and able to kill off those who resist is considered the one who has righteous authority.

Because our King, Jesus, is not a king of the world he does not want what kings of the world want.  Our king wants only our love and to act like him.  He wants us to be of service to those in need.  He wants us to live simply so others may simply live.  We Christians, followers of Christ, are to help the millions of refugees in the world, those suffering from natural disasters, those who are oppressed, and those who are victims of war.  The way to honor Christ as king on his birthday is by using our precious possessions like gold, silver,
or frankincense – our treasure, offered to Christ by giving shelter, food and clothing to the billions suffering at this time in the world. Instead of giving our sacred resources toward war, weapons and training our youth to fight and kill the enemies deemed so by the worldly leaders or kings, let us spend our treasure on saving the lives of the billions who need the basics of life. Think how the world would look at us if only we sent our soldiers without weapons to countries to dig wells, provide sanitation, housing, and building schools rather than going with weapons into the countries destroying the lives of their people! Let us love, not kill, our enemies. By doing this, we will be offering the best gift ever to Christ, our king.

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