

Wise Humility

An amazing thing happens in today's Gospel: Representatives from the farthest ends of the earth follow a heavenly light and end in the humble cave of Bethlehem. The Wise Men first consult with King Herod, Galilee's civil authority. He checks with the high priest and rabbis to determine when and where the Messiah is to be born. The Jewish leadership is able to read the Scriptures and give Herod and the Wise Men all the information they need. Yet only the Eastern travelers go to adore the Lord. The priest and lawyers lack faith to see in those Scriptures a fulfillment of their hopes, while King Herod is blinded to Christ's salvific mission and moved by a will to power, as the killing of the

Innocents will make clear. They all have ears to hear and eyes to see but few pay heed to the signs of the times.

The Wise Men from the East, merely following their study of the stars and asking help from others, travel months in search of Jesus. Raphael shows the moment when they finally find what they have been looking for. The band of travelers—complete with horses, guards, and royalty—arrives at a broken-down stall. One of the Wise Men kneels, removes his crown, and offers Jesus his treasure. This small gesture shows an internal attitude that Herod and the chief priests were missing: the humility to lay aside power, wealth, and status to bend the knee before the king born in their midst.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

Am I willing to humbly accept Jesus for who he is: the Son of God? From what must I detach myself in order to accept Jesus more fully?



Piece: *The Adoration of the Magi*, sixteenth century
Artist: Raphael
Location: Pinacoteca (Vatican City)

*“Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you—
Your sons from afar” (Isaiah 60:4).*