

JESUS CHRIST THE KING, Sunday, Nov 24, 2024.

We respect our leaders, whether they are leaders by birth or by election. They have some responsibility for the people. However, Jesus Christ is another type of king entirely. Jesus demands authority over you and me. In this new kingdom, we are members through baptism. And to remain, inherit it perpetually, we need no registrations, campaigns, elections, or votes.

The major purpose of the four gospels is to show us that Jesus Christ is God, the Messiah, our savior, and our king (that is, **He is our leader**). When we look closely at His miraculous birth, his life and teaching, his miracles, His death, and His triumph over death, they all show us Christ's true identity. Jesus came to earth to begin his kingdom. This kingdom will be fully realized at His return and made up of anyone who faithfully follows Him.

Christ announces the kingdom of God;

Rosary - the fourth mystery of Light.

Mark 1:15: ***"The time has come, the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the Good News!"***

Luke 7: 47-48: "Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven - as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

John 20:22-23, "And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Mark 2: 3-13: "But I want you to know that **the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.**" So he said to the man,¹¹ "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!" (Mark 2: 10-12)

Matthew shows the nature of Christ's kingship through healing the sick; evil spirits fled his presence when he spoke a single word. Jesus has authority over all evil powers and all earthly diseases. He also has the power and authority to conquer sin. But when God removes all sin, there will be no more sickness and death in the future. Jesus's healing miracles were a taste of what the whole world will one day experience in God's kingdom.

The nature of Christ's kingship:

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, ***he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*** He told them: "Take nothing for the journey - no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt. Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. If people do not welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." ***So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.*** (Luke 9: 1-6).

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Jesus announced his kingdom both by preaching and healing and sent his disciples out to do the same thing. If he limited himself to preaching, people might have seen his kingdom as spiritual only. If he had healed without preaching, people might not have realized the spiritual importance of his mission. Most of his listeners expected a Messiah who would bring wealth and power to their nation; they preferred material benefits to spiritual discernment. The truth about Jesus is that he is both God and man, ***both spiritual and physical; and the salvation that he offers is both for the soul and the body.*** Any group that or teaching that emphasizes soul at the expense of body, or body at the expense of soul, is in danger of distorting the Good News of Christ. The way to enter God's kingdom is by faith – believing in Christ to save us from sin and change our lives. We must do the work of his kingdom now to be prepared for his return.

Matthew 25:31-46; The Final Judgment

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, **‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’** Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ***And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’***

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you? Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Matthew 25:31-46)

On the last day, God will separate his obedient and faithful followers from pretenders and unbelievers. ***We demonstrate what we believe by the way we act.*** The parable (Matthew 25:31-46) describes acts of mercy we all can do every day. These acts do not depend on wealth, ability, or intelligence; they are simply acts freely given and freely received. We have no excuse to neglect those who have deep needs. Jesus demands our personal involvement in caring for others' needs. To treat each person we encounter as if he or she were Jesus himself. This is the way to go! This is no easy task. **What we do for others demonstrate what we really think about Jesus Christ and His words: feed those who are hungry, give homeless people a place to stay, take care of widows, look after refugees,**

feed hungry children, look after those who are poor or sick, visit those in prison. What can you do to help even if in small ways?

The quality of our love is Christians: Those called to be members of Christ's team are called to look after others, "*whether hungry, thirsty or a stranger, naked, sick or in prison,*" and see Jesus in them (the parable of the separation of the sheep from the goats at the Last Judgment) '*Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.*'

The Beam of Light by Sandra A. Lauriello, Irondale, Alabama.

... After that, I would often sit in the chapel and just stare at Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Sometimes I would question the Real Presence, but the tugging feeling in my heart told me different.

One day I was sitting in the chapel praying for the strength because I was going through a very difficult time in my life. I was divorced, had two children to raise by myself, and was not receiving child support. My burdens felt heavy. I sat there asked Jesus to reveal Himself to me, to show me He was really there and listened to my prayers.

Suddenly I saw a beam of light come towards me and as I looked up at the monstrance, I saw Jesus' heart pulsating. It was His human heart just beating and beating, and there was a fire around it. I never felt such peace before in my life. I knew in that instant that He was really there, He loved me, and that He would take care of me. I felt like time stood still, and I couldn't take my eyes off Jesus' heart. It seemed like this went on forever but it was just a few minutes.

I have been truly blessed and have shared my faith and the miracle of Jesus revealing Himself to me with many people. The people I tell all say they feel such a peace about them when I shared this story. They can tell the story is true by the peaceful expression on my face when I share it. My miracle experience with the Blessed Sacrament has brought many friends of mine back to our Catholic faith. My children are more prayerful and spent time in front of the Blessed Sacrament since this happened to me. I know without a doubt that Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

From the book titled "*201 Inspirational stories of the Eucharist*" by Sr Patricia Proctor, OSC. Published in 2004. Page 171-172.

Two Questions for reflections:

- 1. What is the quality of your love for Christ?**
- 2. Has Jesus Christ authority over your personal life?**

As we enthrone Jesus Christ, as king and Lord over our personal lives every single day, and reach out to others in love through the Christmas Angel gifts, supporting families who are struggling with homelessness this season, and many other forms of services for the needy, may God bless us and guide us through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

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