

free to live knowing him, knowing the real person. Jesus comes to remove the veil of the lie that we get to live with him, freely, as our king.

If you don't want Jesus as king, that's fine, go and do the best you can. But just reflect on how well that is going for humanity, both nationally and individually.

For me, I'm more than happy to have Jesus as my king. I'm eternally grateful that Jesus has made such a wonderful offer, because I know I don't have what it takes.

I've tried a few times and the outcome wasn't great.

Thank God, Jesus has been appointed as our king. Thank

God that he has freely given his life that we might have life in his kingdom; knowing him personally, in a wonder intimate bond of love, were we share an intimate conversational relationship together. Thank God Jesus was willing to be born my brother, giving his life on the cross, so that I can live joyfully, freely, abundantly in his loving presence.

What an amazing king we have in Jesus. What an amazing kingdom he decrees into existence; because he has the power and authority, even the evil spirits obey him.

Let us pray. Jesus, I rejoice that you are our king. I invite you to come and rule in my heart and mind that the

Kingdom of God comes near to all I meet this week. I invite you to kill the rebel in me so that I'm not tempted by the devil's lies but that I live by your truth. Jesus come and rule as king, and free me for life in your kingdom, becoming all that you have created possible.

28 January 2018

JESUS THE KING DECREES

Mark 1:21-28



Did you notice that the people were amazed at Jesus? Why were they amazed? Jesus had authority; even the evil spirits obeyed him. Jesus has authority, so his words aren't empty but do what he says. Jesus has authority.

Authority is essential to any kingdom, to any king. If you don't have the authority to backup what you say, you won't have much of a kingdom. Authority is essential.

Where does Jesus' authority come from?

Jesus' baptism was to confirm that Jesus' authority came from his Father. Jesus is not a self-appointed messiah. Today's reading from Deuteronomy is a reminder that God promised to send a

prophet like Moses to save his people. Jesus is that prophet. Jesus is the fulfilment of that promise. His authority comes from his Father.

So Jesus has the power and authority to create what he says. He speaks and the demons obey, because he has the authority.

Without the authority things would be very different. That reminds me of the story in Acts about the seven sons of Sceva who tried to cast out evil spirits but without the authority. "One time they tried it, the evil spirit replied, 'I know Jesus and I know Paul, but who are you?' Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them

with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered" (Acts 19:15,16).

Jesus is no self-appointed Messiah, but he is the fulfilment of God's promise made to the people, to send a prophet like Moses. When Jesus speaks the evil spirits do as they are told. They bow before Jesus acknowledging that he is king.

Jesus is the king and he has the power and authority to back-up his rule. So we read in Philippians; "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:10,11).

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

Jesus is the king, and he has the power and authority to rule his kingdom. At Jesus crucifixion he is crowned as king and his throne is the cross. Jesus is king, and he has won the right to declare you forgiven. Jesus is king, and he has the power and authority to declare his kingdom.

Actually that's what lies behind the word 'Gospel'. When a Caesar conquered another nation he would declare the 'Gospel', the 'Good News' that he was now ruler, and as such he had the power and authority to implement his rule. No vote required!

The first words we read in the Gospel of Mark are a declaration; "This is the Good News (the Gospel) about Jesus the Messiah" (Mark 1:1). Jesus is declared to be king. He is ushering in a

new kingdom, where he rules as king.

So Jesus preached God's Good News (the Gospel). "The time promised by God has come at last!" Jesus announced. 'The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News! (the

'Good News' the declaration of a new king and a new kingdom.

Gospel)" (Mark 1:15).

Jesus declares the Good News; he has come proclaiming the kingdom. That means he's come creating the kingdom, creating where he rules as king. And in Jesus' kingdom there is no room for another king, there is no tolerance for rebels out to do their own thing.

Being a rebel is not a virtue. Actually being a rebel is the very

definition of sin. I'm setting up my own kingdom, where what I want comes first, and people need to do what I say so that I'm happy. I want to be king, the first of importance in my life. Being a rebel is not a virtue. I'd say it is the best definition of sin there is.

Notice sin isn't primarily about doing evil, but opposing God's rule. Adam and Eve gave up on their Heavenly Father because they thought they knew better. They went out on their own.

How well did that go for them?

In a sense they became self-appointed messiahs but without the power and authority to back it up. That's why the devil is a liar; he doesn't have the power or the authority to back up his promises. He tempts people to rebel, as he did, and

then they find themselves in as big a mess as he is.

Jesus doesn't tolerate self-appointed messiahs because they bring death and destruction, where his goal is life and love. Jesus' goal is to create a kingdom where his rule brings in life; life lived up close and personal with his Father. Life, where people know they are loved children of God the Father, the children he delights in. Jesus' goal is to create a kingdom where his nature, his nature of self-sacrificing love is the very atmosphere we breathe.

So when Jesus is crucified, he takes the place of the rebel Barabbas. Barabbas stands for us. We are the rebels, the insurrectionist, set on being our own 'gods'.

Do you notice how Jesus defeats the rebel?

Our fallen nature would have us kill the rebel. That is displayed and lived out all over the world in so many ways; from governments fighting each other, to people seeking to dominate each other,

Do you notice how Jesus defeats the rebel?

seeking to be happy, just don't get in my road.

Thank God, Jesus is different.

He's not a king who destroys but liberates. Jesus said; "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and the time of

the Lord's favour has come" (Mark 4:18,19).

Jesus doesn't kill us but takes our place that we might live in his place, in his kingdom, knowing we can trust this guy with our lives. He's not out to use us to get what he wants. Quite the opposite; Jesus gives himself that we get, not what we selfishly want, but what we so desperately need. What we so desperately need

to live life; to live life abundantly. Jesus' comes that we might have a 'rich and satisfying life' where the thief comes to kill and steal and destroy' our life (John 10:10).

Jesus reminds us that he is the 'Truth' and it is the truth that sets us free. The devil lies, and when I believe a lie I become a slave to it, I become enslaved, I become trapped. Thank God he came in person to set us