

Introduction:

- New Series going into Easter/Passover/Resurrection Sunday. We are focusing on Jesus-all the way. **"Jesus Is"** Last week we looked at Jesus is I AM! Today's topic is: Jesus Is King!
- *"Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.""* (John 18:37, NKJV)
- *"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."* (1 Timothy 1:17, NKJV)
- Generally speaking, we Americans don't like kings. We had a king once, and we didn't really care for it. Today there are basically two reasons why we don't like kings:
 - The first is our memory. We see a king as a distant tyrant across the ocean who mistreats the people and "taxes their tea".
 - The second reason is that we picture a king as a meaningless figurehead that is treated as a celebrity. A historical office held over from the past that no longer wields any real power.
- Three things we will look at today: Are You King of the Jews? The Story of Our King, What Does it mean to be under a King?

I. Are You King Of The Jews? Mt 27:11

- A. *"Now Jesus stood before the governor [Pilate], and the governor asked Him, Are you the King of the Jews? Jesus said to him, You have stated [the fact]."* (Matthew 27:11, AMP)
1. Why is this important to our story?
 2. The Jews of the day wanted Jesus dead and they wanted someone else to kill him so they would not be guilty. They proposed that Pilate be made aware that this man claims to be king. Therefore it would mean death by the hands of the Romans. Jesus goes before Pilate.
 3. What was Pilate asking? After all he was in charge of making sure that there were no other kings but Caesar. Pilate understood certain things about a king, as well as did the leaders of Israel. (After all they asked for a king like the other nations. What did they see that we don't?) Pilate did not want to lose his job, so he is inquiring to make sure this guy is not a threat. After all word is out that a king came riding into town on a donkey. Jesus does not deny being a king therefore, what does it mean to us that He is King?
- B. What are the distinguishing features a King? What does it mean to have a King? I will give us four today. There are more but these are major ones.

1. A king's authority is absolute. We have no idea what this means! It is absolute! We do not know what it like to not back talk a leader, protest a leader, challenge a leader.
 - a) He is sovereign. Which means the king holds supreme power and authority. When the king speaks, he speaks with absolute authority. No one can countermand his orders, negate his pronouncements, set aside his decrees, or amend his statutes. His decrees are unchanging.
 - b) Most kings today have no authority or very little authority. They are basically figureheads with celebrity like status. A long ways from what being a king meant in the past.
2. Kings are born. They are born into power. We see this in scripture as the sons of kings came to power. It is what makes a king different than a dictator.
 - a) Kings are not voted on or voted in, they are born to office.
 - b) A king is king by birthright. IE. We see this in Jesus and the declaration that He was of the lineage of David. Kingship is not conferred by men. We do not make him king, all we can do is acknowledge that he is king. His power is conferred upon him by his birth and family line. IE. If God is your Father, that is quite a family line!
3. A king is a head of state who inherits his position from his family.
 - a) The king is ruler for life unless he abdicates, and is usually revered as the sovereign leader of his nation.
 - b) The king sets the government. He embodies the government of his kingdom. Is 22:22, speaks of govt upon His shoulders.
 - c) The king personally owns everything in his domain, everything and everyone.
4. A king has subjects not citizens.
 - a) The word that is translated citizen means a gathering of people under a common domain (polites). In many cases where the english word 'citizen' is used it does not even exist. The context would imply people associated with this person or territory.
 - b) As Americans we are citizens of this nation. We pledge allegiance to our flag because of the principles it stands for. But in a kingdom we would be subjects of and subjects to the king. I am citizen of the USA, I am not subject to No King! As a Christian I am first a subject of my King Jesus and then I am a citizen of the USA.

II. The Story Of Our King

- A. I love this verse! So powerful: *"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."* (1 Timothy 1:17, NKJV)
 We see kingship all through the scripture. We see it very clearly in Jesus if we pay attention to all that makes reference to Jesus as king.

1. Hear those words this morning: King eternal! (forever) King immortal! (will never die) King invisible (meaning He reveals himself, mystery).
 2. Heb 11:27 [Moses kept his eyes on the invisible one], FOREVER! God reveals himself to those of faith. This is out king! The one we follow. His story: ...
- B. In the Christmas story are wise men. They bring a message: *"Where is He Who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east at its rising and have come to worship Him."* (Matthew 2:2, AMP) This means almost nothing to us as Americans because we can't relate to a king. This one is BORN KING! If you understand more about what it means to be king then this passage has greater significance.
1. The king is born.
 2. The king is of the lineage of David (a promise), a Forever kingdom.
 3. He, Jesus, is the rightful heir to the throne.
 4. He is the Son of God. The Word made flesh! Our King!!! Pilate's question, "Are you king of the Jews?" YES! It was declared at his birth.
- C. The triumphal entry. The donkey colt. Mt 21:1-10 Matthew quotes Zechariah 9:9: *"Tell the people of Jerusalem, 'Look, your King is coming to you. He is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey's colt.'"* (Matthew 21:5, NLT) If you are going to have a king, please, Lord let him be humble.
1. The king is humble. Humbly he came as a baby, humbly he came riding on a donkey, humbly he went to the cross. IE. "Is He safe? Of course He is not safe! But He is good!" Mr. Beaver from Lion Witch Wardrobe.
 - a) *"When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross."* (Phil 2:7-8 NLT)
 - b) Kings ask people to die for the country. But this King dies for the people because it is personal!
 2. The donkey is foal. Meaning it has never been ridden. It was 'fit for a king!'
- D. Before Pilate *"Now Jesus stood before the governor [Pilate], and the governor asked Him, Are you the King of the Jews? Jesus said to him, You have stated [the fact]."* (Matthew 27:11, AMP)
1. John 19:19 Sign over Jesus on the cross - Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. Pilate does this for two reasons. #1 to irritate the religious leaders. #2 to demonstrate what happens to those who would challenge Rome.
- E. All Authority!!!! Mt 28:18; Rev. 15:13, 17:14 King of Kings and Lord of Lords!
1. King - All authority.
 2. Lord - Gr. κυριος - Lord: having both power and authority. No one has this but God!

III. What Does It Mean To Be Under a King?

- A. What would it look like in our lives if we were to stop treating Jesus as simply a role model and start serving Him as our sovereign king?
1. We wouldn't be content with blending into the world around us. We would live as loyal subjects of a heavenly kingdom, giving our lives in service to Christ our King and we will *"walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God"* (Colossians 1:10).
 2. Do we live like subjects to the King of kings? Or do we cherish our Constitutional freedom to live however we choose? Luke 9:23: *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*
 3. Do we so celebrate liberty so well that we ignore God's desires for us? Many people live like they're above the Law of God.
 4. Christ is not to be useful to us, just to get us out of hell. **He is King!** And we are His subjects as believers. This is a kingdom with a King, not a democracy!
- B. Because we are His subjects, citizens of a heavenly kingdom, we are pilgrims in a foreign land! The church is basically a colony of Christians in the earth who are of that heavenly kingdom.
1. IE. When Isaiah saw the Lord, high and lifted up. Is. 6. He did not say, "Where do you want me to go?" "What is in it for me?" "What is the salary? The benefits?" He signed a blank check with his life..." "Here am I, send me!" This response comes from one who has seen the King!
- C. As citizens of a heavenly kingdom, we are to be ambassadors for Jesus. One of our primary tasks is carrying the king's message.
1. Mt 28:18 All authority is given to Him and He has sent us who bear the name of Christ. Therefore go and make disciples!
 2. Because He is king, we have all been made Ambassadors of the Lord Jesus! We are the reps of His kingdom in the earth.

Conclusion:

- THE KING IS ALIVE! He WAS dead - He died for our sins on the cross. But He arose from the grave and He lives today - He lives forever!
- A question that all believers must ask themselves is this: How can you better serve your king?