

CHRIST THE KING

2 Samuel 5:1-3

Colossians 1:12-20

Luke 23:35-43

HOMILY

On this Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, our focus is on the **“Royal Status”** of Jesus.

One thing is clear: in the Gospels nowhere does Jesus ever refer to himself as **“king.”**

But we see Jesus doing is repeatedly proclaiming the arrival of the Kingdom of God.

❖ This was his prime message!

By the way someone remarked that ***“Jesus proclaimed the coming of the Kingdom of God, unfortunately what actually arrived was the Church and not the Kingdom of God.”***

Even where Jesus talks about ***“my kingdom,”*** he also explicitly distances himself from the title King itself.

THE TITLE “KING” IN GOSPEL TODAY

- a) In today’s gospel reading, it is the Roman soldiers who, mocking Jesus say ***“If you are King of the Jews, save yourself”***
- b) Shortly afterwards it is the very soldiers who erect an inscription: ***“This is the king of the Jews.”***
- c) Even elsewhere in the Gospels when Pilate asks him, if he was the king of the Jews Jesus is only responding to Pilates’ question: ***“It is you who say I am a king.”***

The only preoccupation of Jesus was how the kingdom was emerging into our world through his life and through anyone who would follow him.

Looking at the History of Salvation it is our faith that tells us that

- Jesus is our king.
- He is king of our hearts

As people of faith, the painting of our lives is never complete until we place at its centre Christ the King.

The kingship of Jesus is our Christian response

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE KING

When we talk of kingship it always points to a personal allegiance to one person.

- To take the British passport I had to swear true allegiance to the queen.
- For you and me to say Christ is King implies allegiance to him and that we are subjects.
- To be king refers to that person who "reigns in our minds" in the our wills,
- In other words it is a recognition that here is someone who has won my heart

St. Bernard prayed, ***“Come, Lord Jesus, take away scandals from your Kingdom, which is my soul, and reign there, You who alone have the right.”***

If Jesus is not king of our souls

- greediness can easily come to claim a throne within us.
- haughtiness and self-assertion can rule over us,
- pride can be our king;
- lust can reign in us,
- ambition, detraction, envy and anger can all have a tag of war within us for the mastery.

We proclaim Jesus as king but he is no mere figure head

- a) He rules where justice reigns
- a) Where the lowly are raised up and
- b) the might brought low.
- c) Those who hunger and thirst are satisfied where as
- d) the rich are sent away empty

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The only preoccupation of Jesus was how the kingdom was emerging into our world

- through his life and
- through anyone who would follow him.

Yes, Jesus does not refer to himself as king but our faith that tells us that

- Jesus is our king.
- He is king of our hearts

So, the kingship of Jesus is our Christian response

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St. Bernard prayed, **“Come, Lord Jesus, take away scandals from your Kingdom, which is my soul, and reign there, You who alone have the right.”**

If we do not make Jesus king of our souls

- greediness can easily come to claim a throne within us.
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