

seeks to impose his will on us. What Christian would ever want to calm the Devil as their king? But that's precisely what the High Priest and the Sanhedrin do, so that they don't lose their precious building and their privileged status. I find it scary to see what I'm capable of when I decide to take the reins and run things myself.

So today I believe the Holy Spirit is trying to hammer two things into my thick head. First; live with Jesus as king. The one who has the reins and runs things. It's his kingdom and it's his will that is to be done. I daily need to repent of wanting to take control and do it my way. It's no longer my way or the highway. It's Jesus way, thank God for that. The way of God's forgiveness, God's grace, God's mercy, God's compassion,

God's love. Jesus is my king. Thank God!

The second point is don't use God's name to get what I want. Don't get sucked in like the High Priest and the Sanhedrin. It's not our church. It's not our traditions that we give our life for. Jesus gave his life that we might give our life for him. Jesus gave his life that we might live with him, loving each other as we are loved by him. I daily need to repent of using God's name to simply get what I want, or what I believe is right, and daily seek to do the Father's will that his kingdom comes. And that happens when we do things his way, and his way is Jesus' way. The way of the cross. The way of self-sacrifice. The way of washing each other's feet in loving service, motivate by God'

We have God's name so that when we pray for what he desires, it is done in his power and authority. That way he gets the credit, and we get to praise him.

Let's pray.
Jesus forgive me for the times I've tried to live life my way, or have let the devil force his way in. Thank you for coming as our king, as my king. Thank you that we can always rely on you. Help me to daily repent and live for you, doing things your way, even when I don't understand why.
Jesus thank you for inviting us to use your name in pray, and for promising to answer us.
By the Holy Spirit guide our thoughts that we don't get lead astray, but that we always seek to ask for what extends your kingdom, so that your will is done, that you get the credit.
Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553
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Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

10 April 2009

GOOD FRIDAY



This year two things struck me about Jesus crucifixion. The first was this discussion between Jesus and Pilate. Pilate said; "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, 'You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.'" (John 19:10,11)
What does that mean!

I have always understood that Jesus took the penalty of sin upon himself that was due to us, but here I see that the Father also suffers. He could have easily stepped in and stopped Jesus from being crucified.

What was the crime that Jesus had committed? The High Priest asked Jesus direct; "I charge you under oath by the

living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God" (Matthew 26:63b) Here we have a simple direct question. To answer yes Jesus is claiming to be God. The only answer any person can give to this question is; I'm not God.

To claim to be God was the ultimate crime – blasphemy. This is no little indiscretion. All Jews knew the first commandment; "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me." (Deuteronomy 5:6,7) Idolatry was the very reason the Israelites went into exile. They did setup other gods; listening to them, trying to please them, devoting their economic future to them.

God clearly says that those who would lead

you into idolatry must be put to death. "You must purge the evil from among you." (Deut. 13:5b) "And if it is true and it has been proved that this detestable thing (Idolatry) has been done among you. You must certainly put to the sword all who live in that town. Destroy it completely... None of those condemned things shall be found in your hands, so that the LORD will turn from his fierce anger..." (Deut. 13:14,15,17)

Idolatry is no trivial matter, even today. There is only one God, and I'll freely admit if you ask, it's not me. Jesus was asked and he gave the wrong answer for any other person.

What did Jesus say? "You have said so," Jesus replied, 'But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son

of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” (Matt. 26:64)

There is not a shadow of doubt that here Jesus claims to be God. He doesn't simply say; 'Yes I'm God', but he makes the audacious claim that he is to be worshipped. That he is all powerful. That he will come as the world's judge.

I can understand how the High Priest must have been totally gob-

Unbelievable, he said it. He actually claimed to be the Messiah, to be God, and I should worship him.

Even though the High Priest's motives were completely twisted he was right in acknowledging that Jesus claimed to be God.

Jesus claims that the Father is on his side, that he is God. That's why they chose to crucify Jesus rather than to stone him to death on the spot. For everyone knows that

a crucified person is cursed of God. They are going to put an end to this evil, and have God on their side. See he is crucified, cursed of God, and God didn't come and take him down. See we were right. God has agreed.

How many things have been done in God's name throughout

JESUS is KING

history?

Could have the Father come and taken Jesus down from the cross? Of course. He had the power. But he doesn't. The Father suffers the pain of having His Son, executed in His Name, in the Father's name. The Father could have stepped in and said he's my Son, as he had twice before.

At Jesus' baptism the Father said; "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well

pleased.” (Mark 1:11) On the mountain when Jesus was transfigured the Father said; "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" But the Father now remains silent, and allows Jesus to be crucified, in his name.

How many horrid things, how many wars have been done in God's name?

The Father remains silent and his authority is claimed, and used to execute Jesus as a fraud. The

worst of all sinners. A god pretender. They can claim to have God on their side as they justifiably condemn Jesus for his blasphemy. He has plainly claimed to be God.

Admittedly Pilate had no justifiable reason to kill Jesus. Pilate would have worshipped many gods. It was just politically expedient. After all who wants a riot during a holiday? One flaky Jew wasn't too big a price to pay for peace and quiet. I wonder how many

people have been sacrificed on the altar of political expedience.

And the Father remains silent, having his name dragged through the mud, allowing His Son to be violently killed, by god pretenders. What a price to pay. It must have torn the Father's heart out, to do nothing, and let His Son be executed in His Name. And by the real god pretenders!

How much does the Father love us?

What a price to pay, that you might be set free. That you might be forgiven. That we might be reborn as his legitimate children. The children he will stand with at the end of time and declare his love for, and not be silent this time.

"The one who handed me (Jesus) over to you is guilty of a greater sin." (John 19:11b) What a price God, the Father, has paid for our redemption. That we might live in his kingdom, under the

gracious rule of Jesus as our King.

That's the second thing that struck me this year; how quickly the people claim to have only one king, Caesar. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priest answered." (John 19:15b)

Why do the chief priests

OBEDIENCE

and the Pharisees condemn Jesus? "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. 'Here is this man performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both OUR temple and OUR nation.'" (John 11:47,48)

This is why Jesus must die, he threatens their belief in what God is meant to be doing. They've invested themselves in the temple

and in the Jewish nation and they'll do anything it takes not to lose what they've got. Even if that means murder. Even if that means declaring Caesar as their king.

How bazaar! To preserve their position they are prepared to deny God as their king. They acknowledge the rule of Caesar, the one who is oppressing their nation. The one who has by force taken over their nation, and maintains his rule by imposing his will on them. They kill Jesus for claiming to be God, and here they break the first commandment, declaring Caesar as their only king.

They certainly are blinded by their jealousy, their insecurities and their blind ambition. It's scary to see what I as a person am capable of.

It's also important to see how the devil twists thing. He's the one who by force has come to rule in our lives and