

character. His character of justice, of grace, of mercy, of self-sacrifice, of love that doesn't simply take what it wants but gives, gives totally, freely, because that is what is best. And thankfully Jesus knows what is best, which is totally different to my felt needs. That's just me living from my insecurities, using whoever and whatever to make me feel good about myself. Thankfully that's not how Jesus assesses what is best. Thankfully our King, Jesus, is totally secure in his relationship with the Father, and has wisdom that far surpasses any brilliance I could come up with.

So today I rejoice to have the wonderful privilege of living with Jesus as King. I rejoice in the wonderful privilege of being a citizen of Jesus' kingdom. Knowing I can talk to Jesus, having a king who's heart and soul is determined to love me, according to his best. Such a king inspires me to want to live as a citizen who reflects the very nature and character of the King. Today I thank God that Jesus is my king.

Let us pray. Jesus, show me where I get tricked into following other people, things, or my own felt needs so that I can

change, and always faithfully follow you. Fill me with the Holy Spirit that I might live faithfully with you as king, trusting you in all areas of life, growing more and more to reflect your nature and character, bringing praise, glory and honour to you. Amen.

21 November 2010
JESUS IS KING
 Luke 19:12



Today I'm reminded that Jesus is King. He was born to be King. That's one thing we celebrate every Christmas. At Easter we celebrate Jesus' coronation at King. At Jesus' ascension we remember that he has gone to heaven to rule from there as King. And he will be returning as King.

One thing that I'm always reminded of when I remember that Jesus is King, is that it doesn't depend on me. Whether I want Jesus to be King or not hasn't got the slightest influence on him being King. Jesus is The King, and when he returns he will return as King. King of the world.

In the parable from our Gospel reading it didn't matter that some didn't

want him to be king. He returned and he was the king. What happened to those who challenged his rule?

At the end of the parable we read; "But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them – bring them here and kill them in front of me." (Luke 19:27) This is a different image of Jesus than the nice, cuddly, gift giver.

There is only room for one king in a healthy community. When you have two bulls in the paddock what happens? Two bulls who want to be boss, always ends in a war.

What's one of the signs of the end time? War! People fighting to get their own way. People using their strength to intimidate, to over

power, to suppress others, so that they can get their perceived needs meet. What a powerful driving force our perceived needs are. How many people fight to get what they want?

When you have a community who all want to be king, then you'll see wars.

Then you'll see people using their gifts and talents to achieve their own desired outcome. Their goal is to use their gifts and talents for themselves, to fight for themselves, to achieve for themselves.

That's one reason I'm sure the king was angry with the owner of the one talent. Instead of investing his life in the king, he went off and invested his life in his own dreams. He

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

invested his time and effort in building his own kingdom, and the king's hopes and dreams were shelved. Shelved in favour of doing his own thing.

Here is the very core of what we label 'sin'. Sin isn't doing bad things, according to some list of good things. Sin is all about rebellion. Sin is all about telling God to get lost. Sin is all about replacing God as our king, in favour of what we prefer. Of what I prefer. I replace God with myself. I replace God in favour of having my needs meet, according to my will.

This week I noticed a couple of interesting examples of this at work. I listened to a parliamentarian say that he should have the right to be married to whoever he wants to. After all they love each other, and surely that's good. In short he was decreeing; his standard

of morality, and we all need to fall into line with it. Nowhere in the debate on same sex marriages have I heard anyone asking the question; is this moral according to Jesus, our King. For if Jesus says yes, it is OK. If Jesus says no, then it is against his rule, and to go against his rule is

Sin = Rebellion

rebellion. What determines right or wrong in any situation isn't if I like it or not, if I agree or not, but what does The King decree. In Jesus' kingdom it's his opinion that matters, no-one else's! I then picked up a magazine while waiting to play tennis, and flicking through the pages I came to a whole section devoted to psychics. They offered to answer all your questions; from how to

invest your money, to solving your relationship problems, to interpreting your dreams, to giving you a sense of calm. All the very things our King offers to do for us. Here we have open rebellion, open conflict.

It is pretty clear that Jesus taught his disciple to pray in his name. Jesus said; "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) Jesus clearly teaches us to come to him with all our problems, with all our needs, for he is our king.

To go anywhere else is to dethrone Jesus. To declare allegiance to another king, because in our opinion Jesus just hasn't come up to scratch and we need to look elsewhere to get our felt needs meet. Even if we're invited to find our 'Guardian Angel', outside of

Jesus, all you'll find is the devil. No true 'Guardian Angel' would ever invite you to pray to them, they would always point you to Jesus. After all he's The King they serve.

Do you notice the question isn't, does it work? Sure, if you pray for a spirit guide, you'll get one. It won't be a fake spirit, but outside of Jesus, it won't be the Holy Spirit who is leading you. Jesus, our king, sends the Holy Spirit to be our spirit guide, to look anywhere else is total rebellion, total rejection of Jesus as king.

Jesus isn't king because in our opinion he works? Because in our opinion he has satisfactorily met our felt needs? When I judge Jesus that way, then I'm usurping his rule as king, and replacing Jesus with myself. If it doesn't work according to my standards, isn't the

measure that determines if Jesus is king.

Jesus is king because his Father has anointed him and has sent him. Jesus doesn't usurp his Father's authority, but works within it. Jesus is sent, and anointed by the Father to be our king. To be King of the

Jesus IS King

world, and that is what he is.

And what an amazing king we have in Jesus. Not a king who has come to use us to get what he wants, rather Jesus uses what he has to serve us. Jesus gives his life for us, that we might live secure in his kingdom. Jesus never lord's it over us, exploiting us simply to get what he wants, rather he always sacrifices himself, giving us his best, so

that we can grow healthy and strong in his kingdom, becoming all that he has dreamed possible.

Of course the devil wants me to give up on Jesus' dream, and to seek to become all that I've dreamed possible. The devil wants me to believe I know better, after all everyone else is doing it, and look at all the fun they are having. Surely it can be wrong. Surely I need to get a bit of the action. But a world full of would-be-kings ends up in conflict. Ends up in people taking what they want, when they want, because it is their right. How else would a would-be-king think and act. Thankfully our King wouldn't dream of acting like that, in such a selfish and destructive manner. Thankfully our King, Jesus, knows how to rule his kingdom in a way that reflects his