

need to daily die to being king, and kneel before Jesus as King in subjection to him. I'm a subject in his kingdom, not the other way around.

One area in life where that is worked out is forgiveness. Here is one area where I'm called to die to myself and put into action Jesus' forgiveness. So the Apostle Paul wrote; "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgive each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)

I die to myself, when I trust in Jesus' forgiveness, offering forgiveness, that the

other person might benefit, for their good. I die to being king, to being their judge and executioner. That's Jesus' job, he's the king, and I can trust him to get it right.

So in his wonderful power and authority I seek to offer forgiveness. To offer life lived in the power and authority of Jesus, who has overcome; sin, death and the devil. Jesus has paid the price, he has won the right to declare us forgiven, so that we now can live under God's blessing and not a curse. Now that's Good News.

I'm glad that I can live in Jesus' kingdom as a citizen of heaven. I'm glad I can kneel with the wise men and worship Jesus as his subject, freely submitting my life to him; all that is precious, living a life of trust in him, seeking to forgive others.

Let us pray.
Jesus we praise you as our king. May we always joyfully submit to your rule, to your glory, honour and praise.

25 December 2011

THE WISE MEN

Matthew 2:1-11



In the Christmas account we have men who come from the east. I grew up knowing them as the Wise Men. But they are more than wise men for they don't come simply to gain more knowledge. In Matthew we read; "Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have seen his star as it arose, and we have come to worship him.'" (Matt. 2:1-2)

Did you notice that the goal of these men was to worship? To worship Jesus. That's why they are called wise men, because they come to worship the new king. They come and kneel before him in

submission to him as the king. I once heard Paris Hilton say, words to this effect; 'She'd do anything except kneel before anyone.' In other words she wouldn't be in submission to anyone.

I find that submission is rather an emotive word. If you want to get some people hot under the collar, just say wives are to be submissive to their husbands, then duck for cover.

Paul does say; "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord... Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her..." (Eph. 5:21-25) In other words we are

to follow the wise men's example and not seek to be our own king, but to voluntarily, our of love for the other, do our best for them.

The wise men are indeed wise for they come and bow in worship before the king. They give their gifts as acts of worship, kneeling before the new king. Submitting to the new king.

This is no move to overthrow Jesus as king, they kneel before him in worship and submission.

Of course Herod was a different matter. He was going to be king; and so he fights, he kills, rather than submit to this new king. The battle lines were draw. Herod lost.

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

Today we join with the wise men in coming and kneeling before our king, rejoicing to be citizens of his kingdom. We kneel in submission, trusting Jesus as our king, the ruler of our lives.

Then we read; "After this interview the wise men went their way.

Once again the star appeared to them, guiding them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house where the child and his mother, Mary, were, and they fell down before him and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." (Matt. 2:9-11)

Notice these are not birthday presents or even Christmas presents, the gifts are

given as an act of worship. These are gifts of worship, reflecting their submission to the king.

Why do we give Christmas presents? Is it to show that we worship Jesus and submit to him as our king?

Worship Jesus and submit to him.

They gave gold, frankincense and myrrh. What could these three gifts represent in our life today, as we give them to Jesus, kneeling before him in submission, trusting our king with our lives?

The first gift; gold, reminds me of what is precious. The wise men give what is precious. What is most precious to you? The answer that jumps to my mind is people. The people in

my life are the most precious part of life.

God must think the same thing because; "God so loved the world (people) that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

I too give my most precious gift to Jesus, trusting him with them. There is no other place I would want the people I love than in Jesus' kingdom. I submit to him as King, and trust in his power and authority over mine. Which is really wise, because if your life depended on my power and authority you'd be nervous, very nervous.

The second gift was frankincense, which symbolises, prayer, worship. What might represent frankincense in our life today? How do we worship Jesus,

showing we trust him with our lives?

One way is by obeying his command, because we know we can trust him. What is Jesus command? "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34)

We kneel before our king, submitting to him when we love the people in our lives as we are loved by him. How does Jesus love us? He dies for us. He gives himself for us, so that we might benefit. God's love is a choice. Where he chooses to pay the price; his life, that we might benefit, for our good. He pays, we benefit; that's the lifestyle that comes before our king as a sweet smelling gift of worship.

To give ourselves away is risky business, because then we are

dependent on someone else. Jesus calls us to be dependent on him,

risking our lives trusting him. So when it comes to making decisions, I don't reason things out, I ask Jesus what he thinks, then I kneel before him in submission and do what he says. I trust Jesus with my life. He's

We kneel before our king, submitting to him.

the one I'm dependent on. So I'm empowered to love my enemy, because I'm not dependent on my enemy, I'm dependent on Jesus. I value his opinion, no more than value, I risk my life trusting his opinion. Even if everyone else goes another way, Jesus says; 'Trust me. Live from my power and authority. Trust me. Live from my love, risking that I know

what I'm talking about.'

The frankincense that we offer today is our lives, the way we live, as faithful citizens of our King Jesus, kneeling in subjection to him as we seek to love as we are loved.

The third gift was myrrh, which was used in funerals. What might that symbolise in our lives today?

It reminds me that Jesus died that I might be forgiven and live life to the full in his presence. Right at Jesus birth his death is predicted. He sacrificed himself that I might be forgiven. Which is God's way of living; he pays the price that others might benefit.

When I seek to live as my own king, that's not how it works. Usually I end up getting others to pay the price that I might benefit. So today I'm reminded that I