

Is Jesus Your King of Kings & Lord of Lords?

There is none to whom Christ can be compared. When Jesus appeared before Pontus Pilate he said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, My servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now My kingdom is from another place." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "you say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." There was no way that Jesus could explain to Pilate the nature of His kingdom that Pilate would understand. How do you explain to a person who is totally immersed in a material world what a spiritual kingdom is? It is like trying to explain color to a person who has never even seen light, or music to a person who has never heard a single sound. "My kingdom is not of this world." How do we ourselves get our tiny brains around such a lofty concept? The Bible makes it clear that we can have no other ultimate allegiance than our allegiance to Christ. The cross of Christ comes first if you live in Christ's kingdom and we would be called to lay down our life for another!

So, as we end the Christian year on November 20, Celebrating Christ the King Sunday, ask yourself where your ultimate allegiance is. What is it that is most important in your life? Theologian Paul Tillich called it our "ultimate concern." What is your ultimate concern? What is it in life that you value most that you would not only die for but also live for? Be careful how you answer. It is a most difficult question. Some people will say, "Why, Jesus is what matters most in my life." And yet, when the time of testing comes, we discover that it is NOT Jesus that matters most. It is the esteem with which our friends hold us that really matters most. It is power or control that drives us. For many, it is greed or a scarcity mentality that rules us! We get along by going along with the attitudes of our friends. Our true Motto is "Don't Rock the Boat" Most who claim Christ as Lord call all the shots and the principle of "What Would Jesus Do?" is just a saying! To whom do you owe your ultimate allegiance? Citizenship in Christ's Kingdom is ultimately determined by whom you worship! What do you spend most of your time focused on? Who is it that you admire more than any other? Who is it you try to emulate in your daily life? Who is your ultimate role model? Only one person has ever lived who merits our worship. And that is Christ Jesus, the Son of Man who humbled Himself and gave His life for us on the cross of Calvary.

Who is this Jesus? To the hungry, JESUS is the Bread of Life. To the sick, JESUS is the Great Physician. To the lonely, JESUS is the one who comes and sits beside us, often in silence. To the lost, JESUS is the Good Shepherd who goes out seeking His lost sheep. To the prodigals, JESUS is the parent waiting at home, watching ready to throw a party in celebration of the return home. To the anxious, JESUS is peace. To the proud, JESUS is the One who comes and makes us humble. To the happy, JESUS is the One who enjoys our celebrations and parties. Does that describe Christ in your life? Do you live in His kingdom – for His Kingdom? That kingdom is determined not by where you will ultimately live for eternity but by how you live now. That kingdom is determined by where you place your ultimate allegiance. It is determined by the one you worship. I love the way S. M. Lockridge the late African American preacher and evangelist, once put it: "The Pharisees couldn't stand Him. But they found out they couldn't stop Him. Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him. Herod couldn't kill Him. Death couldn't handle Him, and the grave couldn't hold Him. Yea! That's my King." Is Jesus your King? If not, will you make Him your King today?