

## *Jesus the King – Matthew 21:1-17*

1. What comes to mind when you picture a king?
2. God's people had long expected their saviour king to come, but what type of king were they expecting?

### **Strong & Tender**

And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers." -**Matthew 21:12-13**

3. How in His life did Jesus' exercise of authority and strength differ from the norm of earthly kings?
4. In His rule as eternal King, how does Jesus assert strength in His protection over us and by fighting for us?

But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. -**2 Thessalonians 3:3**

5. Where do we see the tender heart of Jesus in His life and His rule over us as King?
6. How might we overemphasize the tenderness of God over His other attributes? How can this be harmful?
7. How might we overemphasize the strength and severity of God over His other attributes? How can this be harmful?
8. As the perfect King, how does Jesus demonstrate strength without harshness and tenderness without weakness? What can we learn from this perfect balance?

Once God has spoken;  
twice have I heard this:  
that power belongs to God,  
and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. -**Psalms 62:11-12**

### **Humble & Exalted**

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>1</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. -**Philippians 2:5-11**

9. How did Jesus empty Himself in His life on earth, taking the form of a servant?
10. Jesus as the Lord of the universe, the King of Kings with all power and authority, lived and died to serve others – What wisdom and perspective must we apply to our own lives from such humility?
11. What do the life and ministry of Christ teach us about a truly meaningful life, and the true path to glorification?

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. **-Hebrews 12:2**

that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. **-Philippians 3:10-11**

## **Worshipped & Rejected**

And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. <sup>15</sup> But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant, **-Matthew 21:14-15**

- 12.** What are the different responses to the Kingship of Jesus that we see in the scriptures? How do you see those responses in the world and the people around you?
- 13.** Why does the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus as the perfect Prophet, Priest, and King demand a response from all of us?
- 14.** What does it truly mean to bow to Jesus Christ as King – Receiving all He has done for us, submitting to His authority, and worshiping Him with our lives?

The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. **-John 12:48**

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might forever and ever!" - **Revelation 5:13**

What is the next step that you need to take this Easter in light of who Jesus is and what He has done? Do you need to turn to Jesus for the first time in faith and receive His gift of grace and forgiveness? Do you need to remember the tenderness of God and know how deeply He cares for you and wants to bring healing and rest to your soul? Do you need to be reminded of the seriousness of sin and rebellion against God, and how fiercely He hates evil and injustice? Where are we falling short, drifting, failing to align our lives with the gospel and the glorious calling to which we have been called? Where do we need to humble and re-submit ourselves to the loving Kingship of Jesus in our hearts and our lives once again?

O Lord,  
Come quickly and reign on Your throne,  
for now often something rises up within me,  
and tries to take possession of Your throne;  
pride, covetousness, uncleanness, and sloth  
want to be my kings;  
and then evil-speaking, anger, hatred,  
and the whole train of vices join with me  
in warring against myself,  
and try to reign over me.

I resist them,  
I cry out against them,  
“I have no other king than Christ!”

O King of Peace,  
come and reign in me,  
for I will have no king but You!

**-Bernard of Clairveaux – 1090-1153**