

## **“The True King” – Pr Jim Sprengle**

### **Christ the King Sunday – November 24, 2024**

- I. **John 18:36** – <sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world...”
- II. **People always have leaders and leadership.**
  - a. No matter what country or area you go to, some kind of leadership is in place to guide and direct the people.
  - b. Throughout all history, humans group together, and a leader rises to a position of authority.
  - c. Today we have fewer monarchies in control where a king or queen leads.
    - i. In the past, kings and queens were common throughout the world, and they typically passed power down through their families.
    - ii. In America, we don't know what it's like to have a king or queen, as we've always experienced a government with many elected leaders.
    - iii. Obviously, we are currently in the middle of a major leadership change in America after the elections.
      1. Voters decided to install a new president into the Executive Office, along with a number of new members of Congress.
      2. One group of Americans is very concerned and even fearful of the of leadership in place, while another group is hopeful for the changes they believe are needed.
      3. Each day we see new cabinet picks and designs for the White House and departments in Washington D.C., and whether we like it or not, a new era of leadership is upon us.
    - iv. Leaders rise and fall in nearly every aspect of our lives, even within the most fundamental unit—the family.
      1. Sometimes fathers, mothers, or grandparents pass away or there's a broken relationship and they leave.
      2. In this case, power struggles can lead to all kinds of trouble – for example, sons and daughters might struggle against the remaining parent.
      3. Other times, husbands and wives struggle for power and leadership rather than complementing and honoring each other.
  - d. As Christians, we follow the Ten Commandments.
    - i. The commandment that addresses authority in our lives is the Fourth Commandment – “You shall honor your father and mother.”
      1. The verse that we get this commandment from, Exodus 20:12, says this: “You shall honor your father and mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.”
      2. Paul tells us in Ephesians that... “this is the first commandment with a promise.” (Ephesians 6:2)

- a. Honor the authority put in your lives so that you can live a long time in the Promised Land!
  - b. Paul points out that we submit to the authority of our parents and it will lead to blessings.
- 3. Authority begins with moms and dads, then flows outward to all authority – including governments, military and police, teachers, employers, and even pastors.
- 4. The challenge is to be humble enough to allow authority to be in control for a season, even when it's far from perfect.
- 5. Paul dealt with this under the rule of the Roman Empire, but he still said, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted (established) by God. Therefore whoever resists (rebels against) the authorities resists what God has appointed..." (Romans 13:1-2)
- e. It is not that we may have deep disagreements with leaders or those who are given authority in our lives, but God wants us to step back and remember who is really in charge – King Jesus!

### III. **As sinful people, we will always struggle with authority.**

- a. Go back to the Garden of Eden, and the first sin was an act of rebellion.
  - i. Adam and Eve chose to reject the authority of God and eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
  - ii. And then God tells Eve what the consequences of sin will bring, "To the woman He said, 'I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.'" (Genesis 3:16)
    - 1. This means that in marriage the woman will strive to have control and fight for authority, while the husband will misuse his authority and dominate or hold his authority over his wife.
    - 2. The Lord calls husbands to lead the family spiritually and love his wife as Jesus loved us, willing to die for her... and the wife is to trust her husband's love and leadership enough to submit to that authority. (Ephesians 5:22-28)
      - a. Don't start throwing rotten tomatoes at me, I'm just the messenger... and God knows what works best for us.
- b. The example of rebelling against authority and God's will is so much a part of our lives that we not only do it, we celebrate it in our culture.
  - i. We say things like, "Nobody tells me what to do..." as if that is a badge of honor.
  - ii. We undermine people who are put in places of authority by making fun of them, spreading lies about them, and encouraging others to rebel against them – like our government and its leaders... or in our workplaces, our churches, or even our own families.

- iii. We take pride in getting around government regulations – as we don't pay our taxes or report income, avoid getting proper permits, drive over the speed limit, or break other laws to our benefit.
- iv. We even tell God what we will and won't do regarding His will for us in the Bible – saying things like, “I don't think God means that...”
- c. On this Christ the King Sunday, we cannot claim any authority without Him.
  - i. Whenever we pridefully sin against authority... we pridefully sin against God... and we make ourselves the authority rather than Him.
  - ii. I'm in charge, so I do whatever I want... I will tell God and everyone else exactly what's right.
  - iii. I'm the king of my life, and I will make decisions based on my vast knowledge and wisdom – instead of relying on and submitting to the True King.

IV. **Jesus is facing His execution before Pontius Pilate in the Gospel today.**

- a. If Jesus wants to avoid being executed, Pilate has the final word.
- b. Rather than make a case for why the Jews are lying and He has been falsely accused, Jesus points out that His kingdom is supreme – His kingdom transcends this earth and the authorities in it.
  - i. Yet, the kind of kingdom Jesus talks about is not based on military might and fighting against earthly kingdoms... it is based on truth.
  - ii. Jesus shares the truth of the good news of our salvation through Him, and those who listen to His voice are people of the truth. (v 37)
- c. Jesus wants us all to know that He did not come in order to literally destroy the kingdoms of the world – He came to permeate and spread throughout each individual with the truth...
  - i. As the Holy Spirit came to each of us with the gift faith, we became people of the truth and part of the kingdom of God.
    - 1. Whenever we say, “Thy kingdom come” in the Lord's Prayer, we are asking God to get His kingdom to all those who don't have it yet – and when we come to faith, our King is Jesus and our kingdom is His.
  - ii. Jesus brings us into His kingdom, and He is the true King over our lives.
- d. On that fateful day before Pontius Pilate, Jesus would die an awful death to pay for our sins of rebellion and pride...
  - i. Yet, King Jesus could not be held by death, and He rose from the grave and ascended into heaven as the one who rules with all power and authority – the King of kings and Lord of Lords.
  - ii. He is our ultimate authority and the one we answer to when He returns to judge both the living and the dead, so we listen to His voice.

- e. No longer do we need to struggle against the world and its authority, because with the true King, we allow the truth to battle against all that would hinder the Gospel.
- f. Humbly walk with the true King of your life... we are not the king, no earthly authority is the king, but only Jesus is the true King.
- g. Listen to the voice of your King – “I forgive you, I love you, and I send you into the world with the truth.” Amen.