

**Jesus is our King**  
*Advent 2018, Pt. 1*  
*Luke 1:26-38*

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*December 2, 2018*



## **I. PRAYER**

- i. God, help us to see today that our joy is found in submitting ourselves to your rule and your authority. Because you are truly the King that our heart longs for.

## **II. INTRODUCTION**

### **a. Well, today marks the first day of Advent.**

- i. Advent is something we celebrate in the church over the month of December as we get closer and closer to Christmas Day...the Day that we obviously celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.
  - So, we have this advent wreath with five candles.
    1. And this wreath represents anticipation.
    2. With each candle we light every single week, we get closer to the day of the advent (arrival) of Jesus Christ.
    3. I remember doing an Advent Wreath as a family growing up...and to me...each time we sat down to light a candle it meant that we were closer and closer to presents.
    4. If you celebrated Christmas as a kid and were fortunate to have presents, you probably felt the anticipation of what was going to be under the tree on Christmas morning...and that anticipation that had you so excited you couldn't sleep at night.
    5. Well, that is an appropriate feeling around Christmas.



6. Maybe not necessarily around presents under the tree.
  7. But the feeling of anticipation is what Christmas is about.
- Because the majority of your Bible is written in the context of anxious waiting and anticipation.
    1. Waiting for the day that God would send the Savior He promised.
  - And Advent is a way that we as the church reflect on this waiting and anticipation.
    1. We reflect on our need for the Savior.
    2. We reflect on what it means that the Savior has come and how that changes our lives.
- ii. And so, over this Advent season, I want to look in the Bible and feel together the anticipation of God's promise to send His Son Jesus.
    - And I want us to rejoice together and respond appropriately to the fact that he has come.
  - iii. And to do that, we are going to study four announcements about who Jesus is that are found in Luke 1-2.
    - And we are going to discover why the arrival of Jesus transforms our lives.
- b. And in the first announcement we are going to study this morning, we are going to see how all of the Bible anticipates and celebrates Jesus as our true King.**
- i. I want to talk about how Jesus holds the title of King in our lives.



### III. **KINGS**

#### a. **Here is the understatement of the century...I am tired of politics.**

- i. I love politics but I am tired of politics and I think most Americans today are tired of politics.
  - Tired of having leaders and a government that seems locked into a political system that thrives off of demeaning people, holding onto power, and fundraising instead of coming together to form good policy.
- ii. I think most Americans would say that they would want a government that makes decisions off of what is truly best for our country and the world and not through a system of power grabbing, who has leverage, and reelection campaigns.
  - But the reality is, we are blessed to live in a country with the kind of government that we have!
    1. We get to live in a democratic republic with checks and balances on the powers above us to ensure our freedoms.
    2. It could be a lot worse!
  - But even in our world's best example of government...there are flaws.
    1. There is corruption.
    2. There is greed.
    3. Power always intoxicates.



- iii. One thing all of mankind has in common, is we long for perfect government or a perfect ruler.
  - A ruler that does not use his people to benefit him or herself.
  - But who truly rules with equity, justice, fairness, and gentleness.

**b. And this longing for a truly good government is not foreign to the Bible.**

- I love the Bible because the Bible speaks specifically to the core desires of humanity.
- i. In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses is giving the Nation of Israel instructions for when they enter the Promised Land.
  - Remember, the Nation of Israel was in slavery in Egypt.
    1. But God had promised to give them the land of Canaan.
    2. And God rescued Israel from their slavery and led them through the desert back to this land that God had promised them.
  - So, Deuteronomy is a sermon that Moses gives to the people of Israel for when they enter this land.
    1. This is going to be their homeland now and these are instructions from God on how they are to live in the Promised Land.
  - And in Deuteronomy 17, God says to Israel: “Once you’re in the Promised Land, there is going to come a time where you are going to want a King over you...here is how that should go...”



ii. **Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20.**

- What was God's requirements for the King over Israel?
  1. This is to be a King that I choose.
  2. This King shall not use his position to enrich Himself or pleasure Himself.
  3. This King shall write down a copy of Deuteronomy under the direction of the priests and study it daily and rule according to it.
- In other words...this King shall represent my rule over you.
  1. Because He's my choice.
  2. He will not take advantage of his position of power.
  3. And he'll rule according to my Word.

iii. This sounds refreshing, right?

**c. And there came a time that Israel did eventually want a King.**

- i. They had moved into the Promised Land and were ruled mostly by Judges that were appointed by God but eventually, the people came to God's prophet, Samuel, and asked for a true King.
  - They wanted to be a monarchy like the other nations. To have a King over them that had all power over all of the Nation and could use that power to rival the other nations.



- And when the people of Israel came to Samuel because they wanted a King, Samuel could tell that the desire of the people was not to have a King that would rule as a representative of God as described in Deuteronomy 17, but they wanted a King that would rule like the Kings of other nations.
- **Read 1 Samuel 8:4-21.**
  1. Israel wanted the tall, handsome, powerful King who would make all the nations respect Israel.
  2. They wanted someone who could project power and strength.
  3. Not someone who carried this [hold up Bible] with them everywhere they went.
  4. And they got Saul as their King. He was tall, strong, handsome. The kind of King that they wanted.

#### **d. Why are people drawn to this kind of leadership?**

- i. Let me wade into some uncomfortable territory for a second if you'd allow me, but I think we see this in our country.
  - I understand that people support our current President because of his policy agenda...and I respect that.
- ii. **But, we are also seeing all of kinds of people drawn to our President precisely because of how he projects his power.**
  - They praise him for having a loose tongue.
  - They praise him for how he demeans people.



- I have seen evangelical church leaders go on TV and say that this kind of leader we need...someone who will punch you back 10x harder if you go after him.
  - And I've seen evangelical leaders almost fired for saying that is conduct that we should not encourage.
- iii. **See, I think the Bible is prophetic here.**
- We are drawn to those who are powerful as long as they seem to be using that power to push forward our desired agenda.
    1. We are willing to look past the character of a ruler, or how they use their position to their own benefit, as long as they fight for me.
- iv. **And this is what we see Israel doing.**
- They tell Samuel: “We don't care if our King uses his position to enrich himself...as long as he shows Israel to be as powerful as the other nations around us.”
  - And this is why God says this was Israel rejecting Himself as King.
    1. They wanted power like the other nations, not the power of Almighty God.
- e. And in Israel's first two Kings they got an example of a train wreck as a King and an example of a godly King.**
- i. Saul was their first King. He looked the part but was a terrible leader.
  - ii. David was their second King.
    - He didn't look the part but was a godly King and ended up being Israel's greatest King.



1. Most people didn't think David would even have a shot at being King because he didn't have the swagger or appearance.
2. But God says of David in 1 Samuel 16:7 - *"Do not look at his appearance or his stature because I have not rejected him. Humans do not see what the LORD sees, for humans see what is visible, but the LORD sees the heart."*
3. David was not a perfect King and made some big mistakes. But he was an example of the kind of King God wanted over His people.

iii. **After David there was Solomon, who certainly enriched Himself with his position as King and failed.**

- After Solomon the Kingdom of Israel split into two. The Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
- Every single one of the Kings over the Northern Kingdom of Israel were wicked and did not follow God.
- The vast majority of the Kings over the Southern Kingdom of Judah were wicked and did not follow God.
- So, after David, almost every single King of Israel did not follow Deuteronomy 17.
  1. They led the nation away from God and into worshiping the idols and gods of the other nations.
  2. In fact, one of Judah's good Kings was Josiah.
  3. And when Josiah took the throne, he commanded that they restore the temple in Jerusalem and re-establish proper worship of God.



4. So, he had his priests cleaning out the temple and one of them finds this book.
  5. He brings it to Josiah and Josiah realizes that this book was the Word of God and it had been on the shelf for generations and had not been touched.
  6. So, the idea of the King of Israel having this [Bible] with him at all times and ruling according to this was just non-existent.
- And Israel paid the price for the conduct of their Kings.
    1. These Kings did not bring the kind of security and world power that Israel was hungry for.

**f. But all the way back during the reign of King David. God made a promise to David and all of His people that one day, a King would come in the line of David who would rule with justice and righteousness according to the Word of God forever...His Kingdom would have no end.**

- i. This was the promise that God made to David. - **Read 2 Samuel 7:12-16.**
  - And this promise has two fulfillments. The first was through Solomon, David's Son and the next King of Israel.
    1. Solomon would build a house for God as he built the first temple in Jerusalem.
    2. And Solomon and the following Kings in the line of David would be severely disciplined by God but not abandoned by God.



- But the true fulfillment of this promise to David is that there would be a King in the line of David who would come and establish the throne of David forever.
  1. A King who would not just build a house for God, but the Kingdom of God.
  2. A King who would not be disciplined by God for His own sin but would take upon Himself the wrath of God for the sin of God's people.
  3. This is a King who would not use the throne to enrich himself at the expense of his people, but a King who out of love would enrich his people at the expense of himself.
- ii. **And earlier, the Kane Family came forward and read for us our first Advent Reading of the season.**
  - And they read from Isaiah 9:6-7. A prophecy that was looking forward to the fulfillment of this promise.
    1. Read Isaiah 9:6-7 - *"% For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 The dominion will be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever. The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this."*



**g. So, when we talk about Advent being a season of anticipation for God's people, this is what they were longing for.**

- i. The day that God would send the true King to sit on throne of David and rule His people with justice and righteousness forever.
- ii. And about 1000 years go by after God makes this promise to David.
  - A thousand years filled with evil Kings, exile, and other nations ruling over Israel.
  - A thousand years where for about 400 of those years between the testaments of your Bible, the people of God did not hear from God.
  - And we come to a time where Israel is under the rule of the Roman Empire.
  - And there is this young woman named Mary living in Nazareth which was a small city in Galilee in the northern part of Israel.
    1. Not a significant person, not rich, not powerful.
  - And out of nowhere, in a very private way that would be unexpected when it comes to an announcement of this kind of magnitude.
    1. An angel appears.
    2. It's time.
    3. **Read Luke 1:26-38.**
- iii. Mary had just received the news that the King that all of God's people have been longing for, the one who will sit on the throne of David, the fulfillment of the promise, was now in her womb.



- And on Christmas Day, we celebrate the birth of our King.
  1. This is why when the Wise Men from the East came to visit Jesus after his birth, they said in Matthew 2:2 - *“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star at its rising and have come to worship Him.”*
- Jesus would not just be a King over the Jews.
  1. But, He is the King over all of God’s people...all who have placed their faith in Jesus...He is their King.
- iv. **And this isn’t just a title...it is a role that He plays in our lives.**
  - If you are a Christian...Jesus is the King of your life.
  - And to close our time together this morning, I want to give you three ways that Jesus rules over our lives as our King.

## **IV. THREE WAYS JESUS RULES**

### **a. #1 – Jesus Rules According to God’s Word.**

- i. If Jesus is God’s true and forever King of His people, then he will be a King as described in Deuteronomy 17.
  - A King who will consistently rule according to the Word of God and will not waiver from doing so.
  - Jesus says in John 7:16 - *“...My teaching isn’t mine but is from the one who sent me.”*



ii. **I think this is an aspect of the Christian life that often gets over looked.**

- We preach so hard on the fact that our salvation is not earned through works but it is given to us as a gift through faith in Jesus Christ.
  1. We are not saved by works, we are saved by grace.
- But the reality is, when we give our lives to Jesus and receive his forgiveness, he becomes our King.
  1. And we are called to submit to His authority and to the Word of God.
  2. When one comes to Jesus Christ, they give up the Lordship over their own life and give that role to Jesus.
  3. He is now Lord over our lives.

iii. **And so the Christian life is a life of submission to God's Word.**

- And this is a submission that doesn't lead to bondage and suffering but to life and joy.

iv. **So let me ask you, is Jesus King of your life?**

- Does he have authority in your life. Does His Word carry weight with you?
  1. If God's Word says one thing and the culture disagrees, do we buckle under the pressure?
  2. Does His Word inform how we make decisions?
  3. Does His Word inform what comes out of our mouth?
  4. Does His Word disciple and speak into our hearts more than what is on the screens in front of us?



- v. Many of us are content with Jesus being our Savior, our brother, our friend, shoulder to cry on...but is He our King?

## **b. #2 – Jesus Rules with Love.**

- i. His rule over our lives is one where everything he does and says is for our good and for our joy.
  - See, the world believes that the best way to wield power and display strength, is through force.
    - 1. You can get people to submit to your authority by threatening them and making them fear you.
  - But this is not how Jesus wields his authority and displays his strength.
    - 1. Jesus rules with love.
- ii. **In John 13 while Jesus and the disciples were having the Passover meal, Jesus took a basin of water and began to wash his disciples' feet.**
  - Remember, this is the one who is God's true and forever King, who sits on the throne of David, the one all of the Bible has been waiting for.
  - And Peter realizes this.
    - 1. So, when Jesus gets to Peter to wash his feet, Peter tells Jesus: "You will never wash my feet."
    - 2. And Jesus replies, "If I do not wash your feet you have no part of me."
  - What was Jesus saying to Peter?
    - 1. Jesus was referring to the cross that he was about to be nailed to.



2. And he was saying: “Peter, I am not a King who will use the throne to enrich myself at your expense, but a King who out of love will give you all things at the expense of myself.”
3. And if you want any part of me, you are going to have to receive that.

iii. **Jesus wields his power and displays his strength through love.**

- That is how we are saved from our sins.
  1. By receiving the love of God through Jesus Christ and his death on the cross.
- And this is how we follow Jesus as His people.
  1. We love one another and our neighbors as He has loved us.
  2. As Jesus said in John 13:14 - *“So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”*
  3. And later in John 13:35 - *“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

iv. **What should mark followers of Christ and what should make us stick out in this world, is not our thirst for power, but our love...our humility...giving of ourselves and what we have for others.**

- Jesus calls us not to display strength through being served but by serving.
- If Jesus is your King, you will be a servant to your spouse and not demand to be served.



1. You will be a servant to your roommates. To your children. To your co-workers and your boss. To your neighbors.
- Because the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.
  1. And that's what we do as His followers.

### **c. #3 – Jesus Rules Forever.**

- i. In 2 Samuel 7 in the promise that God gave to David, in the prophecy of Isaiah 9, in the announcement made by Gabriel to Mary, among countless other texts in the Bible, it is clear that **Jesus will sit on the throne forever.**
  - He is on the throne today, he will remain on the throne after this life is over, and he will be on the throne for all of eternity.
- ii. **And so, to live the Christian life with Jesus as King is to live with faith that Jesus is seated on the throne.**
  - And if Jesus is seated on the throne, then that means you can trust and surrender your whole life to him.
  - When that diagnosis comes, it doesn't mean that Jesus made a mistake.
    1. He is on the throne. You can trust Him.
    2. As John Piper says: "With Jesus on the throne, there is no sickness that can take us without his command and there is no doctor that can save us when he calls us home."
  - When your life doesn't go as planned or desired.
    1. It's because Jesus is on the throne and knows what will give you joy.



- When you are ridiculed for your faith.
  - 1. Jesus is on the throne. And John 15 tells us that the world hated Jesus before they hated us.
- iii. With Jesus on the throne forever, we can live in submission to His Word and Lordship over our lives, we can live our lives loving others as Christ loved us, and we can surrender everything knowing that under his rule, he works all things for our good.

**d. Friends, the good news of Advent, and what we celebrate on Christmas, is that our King has arrived.**

- i. The King that we all truly long for.
- ii. And your joy is found in surrendering all of who you are to Him.

## **V. PRAY**

