

KING OF KINGS



CONNECT RESOURCE

Dates: Sunday 3rd March to Sunday 31st March 2024

Purpose of this campaign: To celebrate and honour the death, resurrection, and ascension of the King of kings.

Key text for this campaign: John's Gospel

5 weeks worth of supporting points to the overarching point of this campaign.

Week 1: Jesus Our King – What Kind of King (Ps Alex Video Preach)

Week 2: Eternal King – the I AM statements in John.

Week 3: Servant King – John 13: 1-20

Week 4: Palm Sunday: Worshipped King

Week 5a: Good Friday- King who Lays down His Life

Week 5b: Easter Sunday- King who triumphs over Death and Sin

Logistics:

25-minute message

5-minute salvation response

Good Friday and Easter Sunday

Key historical context of the Gospel of John

John was written most scholars think in approximately 90 AD. The authorship has long been accepted as John; the question is which John. Although there is debate there is internal evidence that supports an eyewitness. Author Craig Keener argues this should be allowed to stand, that we should accept the authorship of the gospel as the beloved disciple, or at the least the writing of a Johanian school of disciples.

John places Jesus firmly into the Narrative of God and the Jewish people. From the “retelling of Genesis” in John 1 to Jesus being active in the Jewish festival moments, John is clearly telling us that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Jewish Hope -the Messiah they had been longing for.

It is generally accepted that the book was written in Ephesus. The community was facing persecution from a group of synagogue leaders. The Johannine community had been excluded from some synagogues, as the community was still largely made up of Jewish converts this caused no small amount of angst. As John writes his gospel, it is with this frame of reference that he is operating from. So, he shows Jesus in constant conflict with the synagogue and the Jewish authorities. He is pastorally attempting, in his structuring and selection process for writing his gospel, to say to the church; this happened to Jesus as well, we are not alone, continue to believe. This is clearly relevant for us today as well.

(IVP Bible Background Commentary, New Testament
NT Wright, The New Testament and the People of God
Bartlett, David Interpreting and Preaching John’s Gospel
Interpretation Vol 60. (1 Jan 2006)

Bible Project John Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-2e9mMf7E8>

Bible Study Tools: John overview

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/john/>

Week 1

Weekly subtitle: Jesus our King - What Kind of King

Date: Sunday 3rd March 2024

Key Point of this week (in context of the overarching point): Jesus is a totally unique King, unlike any other King who has ever been or will ever be. He is not just a King but the King of Kings (Rev 19:6)

Key Scripture: John 1:1-18

Historical Context, Commentary + supporting references

Known as the “Book of Signs”. John wrote the book to give the church signs that point directly to Jesus being the Christ the Son of God, and for those who believe Jesus gave the right to become children of God. John never uses the word “miracles” (although some versions translate them this way) like in Matthew, Mark and Luke but “signs” to point to Jesus being Messiah.

John 1:11-13 (NIV) “He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. “

John states his purpose again in John 20:30-31: (NIV) “Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may continue to believe* that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” The book is not chronological as you find some of the stories in John are completely out of order with the other gospels (eg. the cleansing of the temple). John included selective texts that point to Jesus as Messiah and presents them as a narrative – it is event oriented not time oriented.

John 21:25 “Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.”

Jesus the Word: When Jesus is called the Word in John the hearers would have understood him to be the embodiment of all God’s revelation in the scriptures. Jewish believers understood Wisdom/Word to be divine yet separate from the Father, so this is the closest available term John had to use to describe Jesus.

John 1:1 starts the same way Genesis 1:1 does. John is deliberately connecting Jesus to the Wisdom/Word, and Jewish believers knew the Wisdom/Word existed before the beginning of time. Countering the heresy that Jesus was created. John is laying out the beginnings of trinitarian theology. Jesus is the Word/ Wisdom, the Eternal Son.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmzqQ13qAAc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwL2hfyoWe8>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/full-of-grace-and-truth/>

Supporting points to Key point:

In this series we are going to look at Jesus as King of kings. Jesus came into the world to lay down His life for us so that we would have eternal life. John, the disciple of Jesus, rewrites the Genesis 1 Creation account but this time he includes Christ. For John his purpose is clear, Jesus is the Son of

God, the Messiah and King they have been waiting for. The first chapter of John shows how Christ already existed, became flesh, lived as the light and life that we desperately need, and He brought the grace and truth as the true Word and wisdom of God.

John 1:1 *"In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God."*

Jesus, King of heaven and earth, chose to humble Himself and come down to earth as a lowly human, to live a life that had hardship, temptations and died a criminal's death, so that we could be saved and have eternal life. I love the lyrics of our C3SYD song What other King, it says:

What other King would take off His crown
What other King would give up His throne
What other King would hang on a cross, and lay down His life for love
What other King has risen from death
What other King has conquered the grave
What other King has rolled back the stone and walked from the tomb alive
What other King is mighty to save
What other King is worthy of praise
What other King is seated on high, in Heaven above in glory

This week we are going to go through the traits that John highlights in John 1, to explore what kind of King Jesus was.

1. He is pre-existent – John 1:1-2

John makes it clear that Jesus has always existed. Remember when we looked at the trinity in our series on the Holy Spirit? **The trinity has always existed as the trinity. Jesus's existence doesn't start with His birth. That's why we call His birth the Incarnation – he took on human form, He took on human flesh. The Son of God always was, and always will be. He is co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit.**

(Key as the trinity is not explained in any other campaign. Easter does not make sense outside of a God who exists in Trinity)

2. Light and Life - John 1:4

John constantly uses dualistic language to communicate. Most of his gospel is contrasting "from above" and "below" i.e. where Jesus has come from and where He is now. Jesus is full of light and life, in contrast to the darkness and death that humanity is caught in.

He is the King who is filled with Light and Life – the things that we crave as humans.

We hold onto life – because we know we were created for eternity Ecc 3:11. We are afraid of darkness because we know there is safety in the Light.

3. Became flesh - John 1:14

This is one of the most extraordinary truths of the Gospel. Our God became flesh and dwelt among us. He is a King who knows what it is to live a human life; to be born into a normal family, to work, to rest, to have friends, to celebrate, to be part of a community, to be misunderstood, to be betrayed, to suffer, to be in pain. He is not a King who was born into a royal family and lived a life of privilege. He is a King who let go of all that, who humbled Himself and made Himself nothing – Phil 2:6-8 – so He can understand what it is to be human.

4. Grace and Truth - John 1:14-18

Our King is not one or the other but both – not some grace and some truth – but FULL of Grace and TRUTH

Unless we hear the truth that we desperately need God – we will not be able to receive His grace. He is a King who tells us the truth of our condition and then by His Grace won provides the way out. In the story of the woman caught in adultery in John 8 Jesus shows her both grace and truth:

John 8:10-11 *“Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?” ¹¹ “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”*

Jesus offers her Grace – “Neither do I (condemn you) and Truth – Go and sin no more!”

These are the foundations of who Jesus is as King but over this Series we are going to look primarily at the last week of Jesus’s life in the Gospel of John, and unpack further what kind of King our Jesus is

He is:

The Eternal King

The Servant King

King to be Worshiped.

The King who lays down His Life

The Victorious King

CONNECT QUESTIONS

Sunday 3rd March 2024

Jesus Our King – What Kind of King

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

GATHER: (ensure that these questions centre around community)

- Think of all the different sorts of governments in the world and in our past. How is it different to be in a monarchy with God and not a sinful human in charge?
- Does the kingship of Jesus ever come in conflict with our earthly government?

GROW: (ensure that these questions prompt discussion on personal growth and maturity)

- How do you treat your heavenly king daily? Is there something you need to change?
- What has King Jesus done for you personally?

GO: (ensure that these questions prompt discussion on going and spreading the good news)

- How would you explain to a friend the difference between your earthly rulers and your heavenly ruler?
- Some people are happy to ask Jesus to save them but feel uncomfortable declaring Him publicly as their king. What would you say to that?

Week 2

Weekly Subtitle: Eternal King - The I Am Statements

Date: Sunday 11th March 2024

Key Point of this week (in context of the overarching point): Knowing that Christ is the Eternal King in the study of the I Am statements.

In the Gospels Jesus describes to us what kind of King he is by a series of metaphors the seven "I am Statements"

Historical Context, Commentary + supporting references:

In these statements Jesus is primarily describing himself as God –he is using the name of God; I AM and reflecting Ex 3:14 and also Is 41:4, Is 43:10,11

In the same way that John 1 is connected to Genesis 1 so the I am statements are connected to Exodus and even Isaiah. John is deliberate in showing the people, Jesus is the Jewish Messiah you were waiting for. He is the King you longed for; He is the King we all need.

[\(https://www.thomasnelsonbibles.com/blog/jesus-seven-i-am-statements/\)](https://www.thomasnelsonbibles.com/blog/jesus-seven-i-am-statements/)

Supporting points to Key point (3-5 points max):

The "I am" statements that John includes in his Gospel are connected with the I am statement in Exodus and Isaiah. Once again John is showing that the King that came to earth, is the Son of God, He is not just the human Messiah, but He is God incarnate. Anything you need is found in Him. As you study these, I am statements, we are forming a picture of who Jesus is, every I am statement reveals a facet of Christ.

Our King is:

1. *"I am the bread of life."* ([John 6:35, 41, 48, 51](#)) As bread sustains physical life, so Christ offers and sustains spiritual life.

This is calling back to the manna of the Old Testament.

2. *"I am the light of the world."* ([John 8:12](#)) To a world lost in darkness, Christ offers Himself as a guide.
3. *"I am the door of the sheep."* ([John 10:7,9](#)) Jesus protects His followers as shepherds protect their flocks from predators.
4. *"I am the resurrection and the life."* ([John 11:25](#)) Death is not the final word for those in Christ.
5. *"I am the good shepherd."* ([John 10:11, 14](#)) Jesus is committed to caring and watching over those who are His.
6. *"I am the way, the truth, and the life."* ([John 14:6](#)) Jesus is the source of all truth and knowledge about God. He is the pathway we travel on to meet the Father. He is the source of our eternal life.

7. *“I am the true vine.”* ([John 15:1, 5](#)) By attaching ourselves to Christ, we enable His life to flow in and through us. Then we cannot help but bear fruit that will honor the Father.

We will be exploring the final I am statement in John 18 in our Good Friday message next week.

(Preachers note please do NOT use the final I AM in John 18 – it is important in the Good Friday message)

Week 3

Weekly subtitle: Jesus the Servant King

Date: Sunday 17th March 2024

Key Point of this week (in context of the overarching point): Jesus came as a Servant King, again radically different from any other King.

Key Scriptures: John 13: 1-20

Historical Context, Commentary + supporting references:

Background – servants normally washed their Masters feet; it was seen as a servile act. The disciples would have been reclining towards their food with their feet pointed away from the table, Jesus went outside of the circle to wash their feet. It is a deliberate, premeditated act of humbling Himself.

(In the story narrative it comes after He has been welcomed in triumph into the city as King – on Palm Sunday – which we will unpack on Psalm Sunday next week, we have to work within the calendar!)

He overturned the societal norms in a shocking way to show them what kind of King He was. To fathom how shocking this would have been imagine if King Charles showed up at your house and started to clean your bathroom or doing your washing. You would be horrified. Jesus on His teaching and life often uses a technique called orientation by disorientation. In this situation the disciples would have been incredibly disoriented, not knowing what to do or say (hence Peter's babbling). Jesus was orienting them towards the ways of His Kingdom and what kind of King he is.

<https://bibleproject.com/bible/nirv/john/13/>

Supporting points to Key point (3-5 points max):

There is so much more happening in the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet than just the fact that their feet were cleaned. Jesus clearly states why He is doing this:

John 13:14-17 *“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”*

This is a counter-cultural moment in a society favouring arrogance, entourage, parades and spectacle; the greatest leader, the Son of God, the King of kings, doesn't come under that idol and brings a Kingdom habit that we are called to emulate.

Washing the Disciples' Feet: On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus humbly washes the feet of His disciples, an act typically performed by a servant. This act symbolises His selfless love and willingness to serve others, encouraging His followers to adopt a similar attitude of humility and service.

Humility brings security and being secure in God brings humility.

This act points to the even greater scandal to come in the dark hours ahead, when Jesus will lay down his life, crucified on a Roman cross — the form of execution reserved for rebels and slaves. N T Wright

There are a few key points from this story that we want to focus on:

1. Secure:

Jesus was able to be a servant because He is a King who is secure – John 13:3. The first five verses of John 13, shows us the security of identity that John was functioning from: He knew that His hour had come (John 13:1), He knew that the Father had put all things under His power (13:3) and that He had come from God and was returning to God (13:3). He knew who He was, and the act of washing smelly dirty feet did not change this. He was acting out of a secure identity. He was showing them that His Kingdom is an upside down one, where Kings leave heaven to be amongst us and are willing to even wash our feet. Jesus does not lose any of who He is by washing the disciples' feet.

2. Close:

Very intimate and personal thing to do – John 13:4,5 – He is a King who is close to us. He is wanting a relationship with His disciples that is intimate and personal. He is not afraid of the dirty parts of us, the less honourable parts of our humanity, He is all in with us.

3. Humble:

He is a King who humbled Himself AGAIN to show us how to live- John 13:13-16. He took the role of a servant, in so many ways, but here He does it in a physical tangible way. His whole life was a life of service, and this final time with His disciples is no different. He is showing what kind of King He truly is. Remember this is the last time he will be with his disciples – so He does something very powerful, very shocking, that they will remember always. Something that shows them not only who He is but who they also need to be.

4. A Forerunner:

Foreshadows the cross – He is the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 53

CONNECT QUESTIONS

Week 3: 17th March 2024

Servant King – John 13: 1-20

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

GATHER: (ensure that these questions centre around community)

- Have you ever had a job that was humbling because it was embarrassing and/or unappreciated? Were you a believer at the time and how did that affect how you felt about it?
- Are there any up-close things that we struggle to do for others in the church or in our world? Does it help to know you are copying Jesus' example?

GROW: (ensure that these questions prompt discussion on personal growth and maturity)

- How does it help you to be obedient in following Christ's example, to know that He served His friends on the saddest night of His life -when they should have been supporting Him?
- What can you do this week to serve others without seeking reward?

GO: (ensure that these questions prompt discussion on going and spreading the good news)

- What would you say to someone who believes salvation and faith is all about us serving Jesus?
- How would you respond to someone who feels they are too dirty with sin to ask Jesus into their lives?
- Have you got any acquaintances who think nobody in authority can be trusted? Is there an example from your life of how Jesus is a trustworthy king?

Connect Group Resources:

The Message, ~Romans 10:8-15

"It's the word of faith that welcomes God to go to work and set things right for us. This is the core of our preaching. Say the welcoming word to God—"Jesus is my Master"—embracing, body and soul, God's work of doing in us what he did in raising Jesus from the dead. That's it. You're not "doing" anything; you're simply calling out to God, trusting him to do it for you. That's salvation. With your whole being you embrace God setting things right, and then you say it, right out loud: "God has set everything right between him and me!"

Scripture reassures us, "No one who trusts God like this—heart and soul—will ever regret it." It's exactly the same no matter what a person's religious background may be: the same God for all of us, acting the same incredibly generous way to everyone who calls out for help. "Everyone who calls, 'Help, God!' gets help.

But how can people call for help if they don't know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven't heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them?"

Week 4

Weekly subtitle: Palm Sunday – The King to Be

Date: Sunday 24th March 2024

Key Point of this week (in context of the overarching point): To celebrate Palm Sunday and understand the significance of this moment in the story of the cross.

Key Scriptures: John 12 :12-15 and Matthew 21:1-10.

Historical Context, Commentary + supporting references:

Branches were waved in the ancient world to celebrate triumphs or to pay homage to rulers. Palm branches were one of the nationalist symbols of Judea since the days of Maccabees. They were used to celebrate military victories and to stir up political messianic hope among the people. They were also used in worship at feasts (The IVP Bible Background Commentary).

The image that would have come to mind was a royal entrance procession.

Hosanna means “please save” – it is addressing God to save them through the Messiah.

Bible Study Tools link: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/what-is-the-meaning-of-palm-sunday-and-why-celebrate-it.html>

Supporting points to Key point (3-5 points max):

This is an incredible moment in the life of Christ, that we get to remember and honour on Palm Sunday. Sometimes we can be lulled into thinking that Jesus was only recognized as a King after His death and resurrection. Palm Sunday reminds us that there were people who recognized Jesus as King, and Jesus knew He was King while He was on earth.

Palm Sunday is when Jesus’ rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. This moment is right before His death, He is in fact riding into Jerusalem not to rule and reign in the natural as King but to give up His life and die and rule in the spiritual realm as King of all kings. Although the people in the story cried, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” by the Friday they would be crying out to “we have no king, but Caesar!” (John 19:15).

Let’s look at the significance of Palm Sunday and this moment in John 12:12-15:

1. Fulfills Prophecy

Positions Jesus again as the long-awaited King.

*“Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”
Zechariah 9:9*

However, Jesus in fulfilling the prophesy shows us again what kind of King He is. He rides in on a donkey, a beast of burden, an animal associated with service. Jesus is the King who rides the humble yet will one day return on a white horse (Rev 19:11)

2. Victory and Triumph

Palms were considered signs of victory and triumph, the people were expecting Jesus to be a Victorious King – He was just in such a difference way to their expected. However, in that moment, at that time, the people recognized Jesus as King, as the one “who comes in the name of the Lord”. His teaching, the signs, and His own declaration of the I Am statements all pointed this way. The people saw Him as the long-awaited Messiah.

3. Jesus received Praise

The crowd should NEVER have done that unless He was God. It was blasphemy for a Jew to receive praise, only God was worthy of praise. All Jews knew and understood this. Palm Sunday shows us He is revealing to us He is God, and the people knew He was God.

4. Foreshadowing of who Jesus is

The King we Worship. He is worthy of our Worship and Praise. Our response to Palm Sunday is to do the same as the crowd and join with them in praising and worshipping Christ as King.

Billy Graham once explained that one of the reasons Jesus’s horde of fans soon turned into His worst enemies was because "He refused to be the kind of king they wanted — a political and military leader who would free them from the hated Roman government. Roman soldiers had occupied their land for decades, and they hoped Jesus would lead them in a successful revolt." Jesus was clear that the Kingdom He had come to establish was not at all of this world. Jesus 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.” ([John 18:36](https://www.christianity.com/wiki/jesus-christ/jesus-triumphal-entry-bible-palm-sunday.html)) <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/jesus-christ/jesus-triumphal-entry-bible-palm-sunday.html>

Palm Sunday is celebrated across the globe in Churches around the world as the day that Christ entered Jerusalem and King, a triumphant entry to give up his life for us.

Week 5a:

Weekly subtitle: Good Friday – King Who Lays Down His Life

Date: Friday 29th March 2024

Key Point of this week (in context of the overarching point): Jesus is the King who lays down His life, not only for our personal sin, but for the sin of the world and to overcome evil.

Key Scripture: John 18 and John 19

Additional scriptures: 1 Peter 3:18, Romans 5, Romans 8 and 1 John 3:8

Historical Context, Commentary + supporting references:

- Worth watching this to get yourself into the scene of Good Friday:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ4OLAdPrbg>
- Nabeel Queershi explains why Jesus has to be God to pay for our sins:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTqdbSG Ex4>

Supporting points to Key point (3-5 points max):

Today we are going to sit in two key chapters that show us what kind of king Jesus was that He would give up His life for others. He wasn't a king that came to "lord" it over people, but He came to serve and lay down His life so that we would have eternal life, salvation from sin and freedom from evil.

Following on from Palm Sunday, where the crowd declared Jesus King, chapters 18 and 19 are the direct result of that declaration. Repeatedly John shows how the key issue with Jesus was that He was king: they flogged Him saying "Hail king of the Jews," (19:3) Pilate declares to the people after the trial, "here is your king" and the people shout, "we have no king but Caesar." (19:14-16). Pilate has a notice fastened to the cross that mocked Jesus, it read "Jesus of Nazareth, The king of the Jews." (19:19-21).

The Journey of the King of kings:

1. I am He (John 18:1-8)

(Read through Week 2 to see the significance of the I Am) The final I AM – the soldiers fall at the pronouncement of the King. Jesus is not just casually saying "I am" He is pronouncing "I AM" – the same I Am as in Exodus. He is proclaiming He is God Almighty. Even nonbelieving soldiers cannot stand. At this point if we think about it logically Jesus could have run, but instead he stayed and waited for the soldiers to arrest Him.

2. The King on trial (John 18 :33-38).

Jesus went through a religious and a civil system in a very short space of time. The basis for the Jewish trial was that Jesus claimed to be God. The civil trial had no real basis. It was a mockery, Jesus experienced extreme injustice.

3. The King Crowned (John 19:1-3).

This crowning was intended to be a humiliation, it was painful and degrading. The soldiers mocked Him as they flogged Him saying, "Hail king of the Jews" and Jesus didn't say a word.

4. The King rejected (John 19:14-21).

Pilate declares to the people after the trial, "here is your king" and the people shout, "we have no king but Caesar." (19:14-16)

5. **The Compassionate King** (John 19:25-27).

The King who in his darkest hour is still outward focused, looking after His mother.

6. **The King Crucified** (John 19 :17-22) In death He was recognized as our King. Pilate has a notice fastened to the cross that mocked Jesus, it read "Jesus of Nazareth, The king of the Jews." (19:19-21).

7. **The King Lays down His Life** (John 19 :28-30, John 10:18).

He laid down His life willingly for you and I, Hebrews 12:2. He did it for the joy set before Him, the Father sent him to the world to redeem humanity which is that the mission was complete John 19:30. On Sunday we will unpack the fact that the Spirit raised Him from the dead. Death could not hold Him down. He overcame sin and evil on the cross. (make this point for those who will not be there on Sunday).

8. **Buried like a King** (John 19: 38-42)

Jesus is given a proper burial of a wealthy noble man and placed in a new, rich man's tomb that no one has ever laid in. This is a king's burial.

Week 5b

Weekly subtitle: Resurrection Sunday – The King Has Risen!

Date: Sunday 31st March 2024

Key Point of this week (in context of the overarching point): To celebrate and worship the Rise King on resurrection Sunday.

Key Scripture: John 20:1-18

Historical Context, Commentary + supporting references:

The Day the Revolution began NT Wright

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WjKdBWFI24>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgiGB21LWmM>

Here are some important defences of the Resurrection.

- The body was never found – the Romans and the Jews had a vested interest in finding it. The Jews to prove that He was not the Messiah and the Romans to uphold their authority in the area. For both groups finding that body was crucial. The body was never found because Jesus had Risen.
- The first eyewitnesses were woman – if they had made up that story they should never have included the women – their testimony was not valid in the first century. They are obviously telling the story how it happened. The women saw the Risen Christ first, and the disciples believed their testimony.
- The changed lives of the disciples – dejected, scattered, depressed men became the Apostles who turned the world upside down – something happened to them – they saw the Risen Christ

Supporting points to Key point:

The resurrection OF THE KING is so central to our faith – without it Jesus is just another martyr and our faith is in vain as it says in **1 Cor 15 14** And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

On Resurrection Sunday let's have a look at the significance of this moment.

On this day our King conquered death

On this day our King defeated evil

On this day our King set us free from sin

On this day our King showed Himself to be King of kings and Lord of lords.

Death couldn't hold Him; He triumphed over it in true victory!

I love the lyrics of our C3SYD song *What other King*

What other King would take off His crown

What other King would give up His throne

What other King would hang on a cross, and lay down His life for love

What other King has risen from death
What other King has conquered the grave
What other King has rolled back the stone and walked from the tomb alive
What other King is mighty to save
What other King is worthy of praise
What other King is seated on high, in Heaven above in glory

What is the Significance of the resurrection?

1. Death couldn't hold him:

He is the King who could not be held by death – Acts 2:24. The wage of sin is death (Romans 6:23) and because He had no sin, He could not be held by death.

Acts 2:24 "But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him."

2. The ultimate victory:

He is the King who defeated evil on the Cross 1 John 3:8. The battle that Christ won on the cross had both an individual impact for each of us personally but also it had a cosmological impact in the defeat of evil. Jesus Christ didn't come to rule and reign just on this earth but to defeat the power of the devil and destroy his works and rule and reign in heaven and earth.

1 John 3:8 "The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."

3. He gave us eternal life:

He is the King who through His death, resurrection and ascension sets us free from sin and death giving us Eternal Life – John 3:16 and Romans 6:22-23.

"But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

4. King of Kings:

Through His death, resurrection and ascension, Christ is now ascended and ruling in heaven. But He won't stay there, He is coming back in glory to reclaim the earth. Eph 1:20,21, Phil 2:8-10 and Revelation 19:11-16.

Ephesians 1:20- 23

"That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."

Philippians 2:8-10

*"And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

*Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
n heaven and on earth and under the earth”*

Revelation 19:11-16

“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.”[a] He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

king of kings and lord of lords.”

CONNECT QUESTIONS

Sunday 31st March 2024

King who triumphs over Death and Sin

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

GATHER: (ensure that these questions centre around community)

- Hundreds of years ago, kings led their armies into battle. How does King Jesus' victory differ from any armed conflict on this earth?
- One of the sayings after the world wars was "never again". Jesus actually accomplished that! How can this help us in our prayer-life, our conversations, our struggles with the world and our decision-making?

GROW: (ensure that these questions prompt discussion on personal growth and maturity)

- Some people connect better to messages through other media. Are there songs, movies or artworks that really help the Holy Spirit talk to you about the enormity of Christ's victory at Easter?
- Are you living like someone on the winning side? Is there something that needs to change?

GO: (ensure that these questions prompt discussion on going and spreading the good news)

- Have you got an example from your own life of how Jesus' victory over sin and death has changed things for you personally?
- People generally fear death but would welcome "a fresh start". What does Easter offer to those people? How would you explain it?

Connect Group Resources:

Examples of other mediums:

Songs: "How deep the Father's love" and "O Happy Day"

Movies: *The Passion of the Christ*, *Risen*

Art: Da Vinci's *Last Supper*, Michelangelo's *La Pietá*

The Message, Romans 8:9-14

"But if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won't know what we're talking about. But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God's terms. It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!

So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go! "

(List any resources books or videos that you would feel would benefit our connect group leaders when leading discussion around the series)