

Do you know my King?

by Rev. Robert Griffith

Today, across many parts of the Church, people are celebrating Christ the King Sunday and this is where we focus on Christ being the King of creation, King over the heavens and the earth, King and ruler over your life and mine. He is King every day, but today we can ask what that means.

We celebrate that Christ is the ruler of all creation. In the Christian faith, we believe that Christ existed with God before creation, that Christ was the agent of creation, and that Christ is the ruler of all creation. That is, Christ is the Lord of all creation. We also celebrate that Christ is the ruler of all nations, the ruler of all kings, and that His reign lasts for all eternity. All the kings and kingdoms of the earth will have their moment in history and fade away and die. The kingdoms of this world are shakeable and will eventually crumble.

Paul talks in 1 Corinthians 2:6: about *"the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing."* The Bible commentator Moffatt refers to them as *"the dethroned powers who rule this world"*. Secular powers are still ruling, but in reality they are dethroned. Dethroned in the sense that a sentence of doom has already been passed on them. They do not acknowledge God's kingdom and so their kingdoms will eventually collapse and fade into history like so many before them.

We see many examples in the current period of history. Hitler believed his evil empire would reign for a thousand years; the follower's of Communism have seen their regimes implode or self-destruct in most parts of the world and Saddam Hussein's despotic rule came to a sticky end. My point is, there is only one king who outlives them all: Jesus Christ the King.

Today as we celebrate together that Christ is the ruler of our lives; we will be reminded that the Kingdom of God is the primary teaching of Jesus when He walked among us and ushered in the New Covenant. Jesus called disciples to enter into His Kingdom. He told parables about the Kingdom and gave teaching about the Kingdom and worked miracles of the Kingdom. Jesus wanted all people, everywhere to embrace His Kingdom.

However, the world in which we live has a different slant on kingdoms, hasn't it? Christian writer and Pastor Chuck Swindoll suggests that the world system is committed to at least four major objectives, which can be summarized in four words: fortune, fame, power and pleasure.

Fortune is money. The world system is driven by money; it feeds on materialism and the accumulation of wealth is the life-blood of the western world into which we were all born.

Fame is just another word for popularity. Fame is the longing to be known, to be somebody in someone else's eyes.

Power is having influence, maintaining control over individuals or groups or companies or whatever. It's the desire to manipulate and manoeuvre others to do something for one's own benefit.

Pleasure, at its basic level, has to do with fulfilling one's sensual desires. It's the same mindset that's behind the slogan: *"If it feels good, do it."*

A couple of hundred years ago, Bible expositor and evangelist D. L. Moody wrote this:

The church is full of people who want one eye for the world and the other for the kingdom of God. Therefore, everything is blurred; one eye is long-sighted and the other is short-sighted; confusion is the result...When the Spirit of God is on us, the world looks very empty; the world has a very small hold on us, and we begin to let go our hold of it and lay hold of things eternal. This is the church's need today.

But what about us? Have you ever day-dreamed about winning the lottery? What about being Bill Gates, Richard Branson or Oprah for a day? What would you do?

When I was younger, I would occasionally let my imagination run away and wonder how it would be to be famous, wealthy, powerful and not have to work any more. There are multi-billion dollar industries dedicated to making those dreams come true these days, aren't they? There are numerous examples that jump out of the media to grab our attention every day. But only for a while...and always at a price!!

I want to draw your attention to verse 36 of John chapter 18 where Jesus says: *"My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."*

Jesus is saying that His Kingdom is not of this material world. This is not a Kingdom that can be easily shaken or swept away like the Third Reich or Communism. This King and His Kingdom lives on and are the strongest force in the world. This Kingdom will be forever challenged but never defeated.

In our material world, all kings and queens die ... all Prime Ministers and Presidents die ... all dictators die. Every one of them has died and few of them are remembered. In the thousands of years of history, most of their names disappear and are forgotten, but there will be one King ... one name that will continue. His kingdom is as real and as powerful as it was 2000 years ago. Praise the Lord!!

They even killed this King and He rose from the grave and His Kingdom exploded across the world. People try to kill Jesus in every generation and He keeps come back and His Kingdom has never been hindered – not even for a day.

Kings have come and gone; kingdoms have come and gone; intellectuals have come and gone. All of them have at one time challenged this King with their weapons or intellect, and then, they have all died ... but this King lives on! Because as it says in Hebrews 13:8, *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."*

You and I belong to a Kingdom which does not have an end because our King is on the throne forever. There is no end to His reign. It's sad that for so many of us, we have a tendency to cling to the unimportant or trivial things of life and miss the central thing ... the unchanging nature of the Kingdom of God. That's why Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:33 to, *"... seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to us as well."*

Many years ago now, Pastor Shadrach Meshach Lockridge from San Diego Calvary Baptist Church spoke some words in a sermon which he never realised would be recorded on a scratchy old recording and played over and over and over again right up until today. I could not think of a better day to share them with you. You may have already heard them, but I can assure you, it's not possible to hear them too many times!

I wonder, do you know my King?

The Bible says:

He's the King of the Jews
He's the King of Israel
He's the King of righteousness
He's the King of the ages
He's the King of heaven,
He's the King of glory

He's the King of kings and He's the Lord of lords.

That's my King!

I wonder, do you know Him?

My King is sovereign King
No means of measure can define
His limitless love
He's enduringly strong,
He's entirely sincere,
He's eternally steadfast,
He's immortally graceful,
He's imperially powerful
He's impartially merciful.
Do you know Him?

He's the greatest phenomenon that has ever
crossed the horizon of this world.

He's God's Son

He's the sinner's Saviour.

He's the centrepiece of civilisation,

He's unparalleled

He's unprecedented.

He's the loftiest idea in literature

He's the highest personality in philosophy

He's the fundamental doctrine of true theology

He's the cardinal necessity of spiritual religion

He's the only one qualified to be an all sufficient Saviour

I wonder, do you know Him today?

He is the only one able to supply all of our needs.

He supplies strength for the weak.

He's available for the tempted and the tried.

He sympathises and He saves.

He strengthens and sustains

He guards and He guides.

He heals the sick.

He cleansed the lepers.

He forgives sinners.

He discharges debtors.

He delivers the captives.

He defends the feeble.

He blesses the young.

He serves the unfortunate.

He regards the aged.

He rewards the diligent and

He beautifies the meek.

I wonder, do you know Him?

He is the key to knowledge.

He's the wellspring of wisdom,

He's the doorway of deliverance.

He's the pathway of peace,

He's the roadway of righteousness,

He's the highway of holiness,

He's the gateway of glory.

Do you know Him?

His life is matchless,

His goodness is limitless.

His mercy is everlasting and

His love never changes.

His Word is enough

His grace is sufficient

His reign is righteous

His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

I wish I could describe Him to you,
but He's indescribable!
He's incomprehensible.
He's invincible.
He's irresistible.

You can't get Him out of your mind.
You can't get Him off your hands.
You can't outlive Him and
You can't live without Him!

Well, 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.

Yes! That's my King!

He always has been and He always will be.
He had no predecessor and
He'll have no successor.
There was nobody before Him and
there will be no one after Him.

He's the Master of the mighty,
He's the Captain of the conquerors,
He's the Head of the heroes and
He's the Leader of the legislators!
He's the Overseer of the overcomers,
He's the Governor of the governors.
He's the Prince of princes,
He's the King of kings, and
He's the Lord of lords.

I wonder, do you know Him?