

# Christ the King

Ek 34:11-12, 15-17

1 Cor. 15:20-26, 28

Mt. 25:31-46

When Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, he asked Him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus replied “You say so. My kingdom is not of this world.” Jesus is not the King of this world. He is the King of our hearts. He is the King of the Spiritual Kingdom—the Heavenly Kingdom. The earthly kingdom is not everlasting, but the Heavenly Kingdom is. That Heavenly Kingdom is our goal—it is our destiny. Nothing should distract us from getting there.

Once, a soldier was brought before the Roman magistrate because he was a Christian. He admitted before the magistrate that he was a Christian. So the magistrate said, “Are you an enemy of Caesar?” The soldier said, “No.” Then he was asked to offer incense to the image of Caesar and say “Caesar is my Lord.” The soldier, being a Christian, refused to do that. The magistrate threatened to chop off his head. The soldier then said, “You may separate my head from my body, but you can never separate my heart from my Lord and King, Jesus.”

Jesus continues to reign in the hearts of millions of people even after 2,000 years. His Kingdom continues to grow. The strong and mighty Roman Empire with a powerful army collapsed. The British Empire on which the sun never set is reduced to a small country. The great French Empire under Napoleon is a thing of the past. But the Kingdom, which Christ founded without swords or army, still exists even after 2,000 years.

Napoleon, who once shook the entire civilized world, was defeated and exiled to an island. Being a prisoner on an island gave him a lot of time to reflect on his life. While he was there he said, “Look at the followers of Christ. They are still faithful to him even after 1,500 years; but my followers have deserted me while I am still alive.”

Jesus is the King of our hearts. He is kind, loving, and merciful. That is why our hearts are attached to him.

In the first reading of today, God says through the prophet Ezekiel, “I myself will look after and tend my sheep. I myself will pasture my sheep. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, and the sick I will heal.” This is the true nature of Christ, our King.

The second reading and the Gospel talk about the second coming of Christ to judge all the people. We are not judged on faith alone, but on a faith that is manifested in action. “I was hungry and you gave me food; thirsty, and you gave me drink; a stranger, and you welcomed me; naked, and you clothed me; ill, and you cared for me; in prison, and you visited me.” These are not merely faith but actions. By our actions, we judge ourselves every day. God does not need to sit on His throne to judge everyone. We are judging ourselves by our actions. We are writing our destiny while we live on this earth. We choose Hell or Heaven while still here. Let us make sure our actions are directed toward Heaven.

Alexander Smith was a soldier in the army of Alexander the Great. He was very protective of himself. So, whenever the battle grew fierce, the soldier would hide. When King Alexander the Great heard about it, he called the soldier and asked him, “What is your name?” The soldier said “Alexander.” The king then said, “You either change your name or change your ways.”

There is no time when we can say “I am now a perfect Christian or a perfect disciple of Christ.” All of us have some ways that can be mended to become better Christians. Let us change those ways to live a life more worthy of Christ our King.