

Christ the King

What does the end of something have to do with Kingship? We may formulate this question upon reading or listening to this Sunday's Gospel. Why do we pair this passage with the solemnity of our Glorious King? You see, sometimes, in order to understand the reason for something, we have to see where we are headed. God sent us His only Son to rescue us from the powers of darkness, the shackles of sin and death, so that we may not only return to His embrace but that we may simultaneously grasp why He created us in the first place. He sent Christ, our King, on a mission to the earth to bring back our attention to the ultimate end of our existence: "To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives" (Cf. Ps 27:4). The King of Glory became a subject just like us in all things but sin (Cf. Heb 4:15) to enlighten our understanding about the true glory of our being, namely, to be invited, privileged guests of the eternal royal banquet at the heavenly table.

Rightly so, then, we are headed towards God's eternal embrace to experience the glory of the redeemed. To this end, the Gospel reveals that right before this comes to pass, the world gets to witness the grandeur of Christ's Kingdom. This full honor and glory of Jesus' Kingship, however, involves the total submission of His people to His divine will. This event transpires to such an extent that the purpose of humanity is illustrated by the deeds that carried it to completion. That is, Jesus Christ majestically reveals that feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and visiting the imprisoned constitute the actions paramount to the fullness of His Kingdom. Indeed, those who took it upon themselves to carry them out in this life already unknowingly served the King Himself.

Thus, the fact that Christ shows the splendor of divine kingship as the bookend of an era is essential. Just as the great kings of old manifested the necessity and glory of their reign after every great victory in battle, Christ demonstrates at the end of time why He is, from all eternity, the King who rules all that exists. On the day of His second arrival, it becomes transparent to His people that He conquered the enemy to set us free. The faithful, then, embrace His reign out of reverence and love, delighted at the glory of such privilege, namely being part of a Kingdom that never ends.

Peace!

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