

Christ the King Sermonettes

Part 1 The King's Birth

NIV Luke 1:26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. 37 For nothing is impossible with God."

The birth of a child brings out a smile even on the most negative and pessimistic people in the world. Even that mere scent of a baby brings a smile and a soothing emotion to our bodies. Even women that once resembled a demoniac in labor now dream of having another baby. What is it that brings these feelings to us at the sight or even scent of a new baby? To me, it is pure love and new hope that comes wrapped up in a new child. A child has no judgments based on your past performance. A child does not think of you based on your failings. Your love for that baby is pure. The baby is totally helpless. The new baby has given you a new chance to do it right. A new child gives us hope in ourselves, in our families, in the world. Now if that's what we receive from a sinful baby's birth, what must the degree be when the child born is the King of the Universe? What significance is there in the divine Lord being born a human baby boy? Extreme pure love and the ultimate new hope! The Birth of Our King means the Impossible is Possible. The season of Christ – Christmas - is all about the Impossible becoming possible. What's your favorite Christmas story? Rudolph's Nose, Frosty's voice, Santa's sleigh, Shepherds' Birth Announcement, Wisemen's guiding star, Mary and Joseph's Miracle birth – They are all impossible. The impossible is possible. We celebrate the birth of our King because it brings us pure love and new hope to the extreme that people impossible to be saved from their sins have been loved, forgiven and made

children of God. The impossible is possible because the birth of our King to a virgin in Bethlehem is true. Hallelujah. The Impossible is Possible. Believe it! Live it!

Part #2: The Kings' Death

NIV Matthew 27:27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. 30 They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. 31 After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

How did the story go so wrong? When, Where, Why did it take such a dark turn? Was it the parenting that led this child down the wrong path? Was it his friends that he got mixed up with? Was it a corrupt government that falsely accused him? No, it wasn't any of the normal plausible reasons that we have the once so pure and hopeful King being spit upon, mocked and beaten. Yet there is something very normal about the situation that our King found himself in the hands of the Roman soldiers – unbelief. Our initial reaction at this gruesome scene of abuse that our King receives by these soldiers is one of shock. Yet the disrespect he receives is simple unbelief. Simple unbelief- that's a penetrating phrase –just run of the mill unbelief. Not harmless or innocuous, but ordinary and commonplace. Today, you and I stand looking back at the life of our King and the death of our King. Yet the significance of that King's life and death at times means nothing to us. Simple unbelief. We show that simple unbelief when we disrespect our King's life and death for us by our lack of energy for his family. Simple unbelief is seen in lack of hope in God's ways. Simple unbelief is seen in the hard heart of an angry spouse. Simple unbelief is seen in divorce. Simple unbelief is seen in words intended to hurt and scar. Simple unbelief is seen in laziness. Simple unbelief is seen in putting our King 2nd in our life, not to mention when he gets bumped down past sleeping, eating, T.V., money, vacations. Yes, you and I may have never done something so despicable in the world's eyes like beating a man bloody or disrespecting a dignitary with a fake crown and robe – but we talk, walk and live in total disrespect to our King at times. Thanks to the Lord our King who came to save our type of people – simple run of the mill unbelieving sinners. Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. He

died for sinners. He was hung on a tree to take the curse away from us. He died for us. No, the normal plausible reasons for the disrespectful death of our King are not true- what is true is that our glorious King, the King of Creation died on the cross outside of Jerusalem because of His great love for us, sinners. All hail the King.

“A King should die standing.” ~ Louis XVIII, King of France, d. 1824

A king deserves respect, but our King died as he wanted, hanging on the cross for us. Now may we live and die standing up for him.

Part #3 The King's Resurrection

NIV 1 Corinthians 15:20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 24 Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

Springtime brings a smile to all our faces. After the winter months, many flowers begin to bloom. The days take over the night as the sun shines longer with each day. Life seems to come back to a dead world. The Easter season is synonymous today with life and hope for the future. Butterflies, eggs, bunny rabbits all bring our thoughts back to the miracle of life. And with that miracle of new life comes new hope. Our hope is in Jesus Christ to pay for our sins. That hope has become a reality! A living reality! NIV 1 Peter 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade-- kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

The new pastor will bring new life to the church. The new president will bring prosperity around the world. The new quarterback will revive our team. Our King is no mortal man. Christ the King has changed everything. Our New King has defeated all our enemies on this life, but even more importantly he has even defeated death.

This is no magic trick; Jesus actually did rise from the dead and appear to His disciples and countless other believers. We have hope in biblical proportions! We are certain of our eternal life. We are positive that he was the Son of God because he walked out of the grave. We are assured that our sins are paid for – our account with God is in good standing because Jesus didn't die for his own sins- God raised him from the dead. We know beyond a shadow of doubt that Jesus who keeps his promises even after he dies –will now make good on his promise to bring us out of death and into our eternal homes!

We follow our Risen King for winning the victory for us. We fight to trust, to follow, to honor, and to obey our risen King! Our New King is our new life!

Part #4 "The King's Reign"

NIV Ezekiel 34:11 "For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. 12 As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. 14 I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. 16 I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

NIV Ezekiel 34:23 I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. 24 I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

“My Kingdom is not of this world” Does your enthusiasm and excitement for your king take a nose dive when you hear that? As if Jesus Christ just wasn't what you were hoping for? It is true that Jesus' Kingdom is a heavenly one but don't think that he does not rule on earth today! If you think that Jesus is not ruling and governing this world today, you are sadly mistaken and sadly missing out on the greatness of His kingdom's rule! When Jesus ascended into heaven, his disciples were still in shock at all the things he told them. They needed heavenly angels to get their lives into action for God's Kingdom. Only through the eyes of faith do we see the Kingdom of the Lord living and actively reigning today. It is true just as the Lord told

Ezekiel – that in heaven the Lord will finally defeat all our enemies and pasture us in his presence with a land flowing with milk and honey forever. What a great day it will be when we take our seat next to our Good Shepherd with all his sheep at the feast prepared for us. On top of that great promise which would be enough for us to live for him –he also reigns today with us. He reigns through us, his believers –through our prayers for others, for governments, for weather, for peace, for recovery in sickness. The Lord is reigning and we with him today. No, not an earthly kingdom focused on putting a turkey on every table and two cars in every garage. But yes, an eternal heavenly kingdom focused on putting faith in every soul and leading his sheep through this wilderness of sin into eternal life. Today he rules just as he will into eternity in heaven with his faithful voice. The difference is where we are standing now, we can't see him –but we can hear his orders and his commands as he watches and governs over the affairs of this world. So today we put our trust in his voice and we follow his marching orders to safely navigate this wilderness of sin. WE urge our children to do the same – we urge all people, friends, neighbors, relatives, and even enemies to listen to his voice, the voice of the King of Creation, the voice of our beautiful Savior, the voice of Christ our King!