The Man, The Myth, The Legend
Week 2: Jesus Our King

I. Last week we started a series of messages called:
The Man, The Myth, The Legend

A. The series is centered around the question: Who is Jesus? That's a loaded question. We could ask 10 different people and likely get 11 answers. There are some that choose to reject Jesus and some who have yet to hear. But even those who identify as Christ followers have likely gravitated at some point toward a Jesus, we want Him to be rather than the Jesus who is. Jesus is more than who we want Him to be; He is who we need Him to be. It's easy to disorient the relationship and place ourselves at the forefront. When we place ourselves in a leadership position over Jesus it's extremely frustrating because the relationship doesn't work that way. We are:
Followers of Jesus

1. So how do we keep Jesus at the forefront? We walk in step with the Holy Spirit. This isn't anything mystical. There seems to be some confusion about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the presence and empowerment of God in our lives! The 3rd Person of the Trinity that indwells us! The filling of God's Spirit is a proactive posture in which we acknowledge our dependency on God with every breath we breathe. The Holy Spirit is our Counselor, or our Helper, and His primary role is clearly stated in Scripture:

John 14:25-26 - 25 "I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

2. The Holy Spirit enables our obedience to Jesus. And obedience to Jesus always leads to life! That's why we're taking the next several weeks to look in depth at how the Scripture answers the question, "who is Jesus?" This is a question we must continually return to as Christ-followers to ensure we're following the Jesus who declared Himself to be the "I Am!" The Jesus who revealed the very heart of God and calls us to live our lives as a sacrifice in response to what God has done. We live our lives as a living sacrifice or testimony to God by obeying His Son Jesus Christ.

II. Last week we focused on Jesus our Brother, this week we'll be looking at:
Jesus Our King

A. Jesus who is fully God and fully man took on flesh and blood to become our brother. The incarnation wasn't about God relinquishing His divinity; it was about what He willingly took on!

Hebrews 2:17 - 17 Therefore, he had to be like his brothers and sisters in every way, so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in matters pertaining to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people.

1. Jesus took His obedient life and sacrificed it on the altar of the cross. He took His righteousness (His perfection and the justice due Him) and extends it over us as a gift. His pure sacrifice is imputed to us! Imputation is a very significant theological term because it goes beyond a mere crediting to an account. Imputation indicates a "transference." The total obedience of Jesus is transferred to our account when we place our trust in Him. We add nothing to the equation!

2. Jesus was born our brother because the penalty incurred demanded the perfect sacrifice of flesh and blood. Only our brother could take our place!

B. But Jesus isn't just our brother; He is also our:
King!

1. Jesus didn't become our king after the crucifixion. We often associate Jesus our King with His divinity (that He was fully God). But what does it mean for Jesus to be born as King, to die as King, and now to reign as King? What difference does it make that the God-Man, Jesus Christ, is the King of kings today? We are following Jesus our brother and simultaneously our king!

C. We're taking 2 weeks to look at Jesus the man. We'll take 2 weeks to look at myths that are often associated with Jesus. Lastly, we'll take 2 weeks to look at the legendary aspect of Jesus. Legendary in the sense that we'll be looking at what we can know about Jesus that goes beyond His life on earth, stretching back into eternity past and looking forward into eternity future. We may look at these verses again but let's take a

moment to anchor Jesus our king in what was prophesied in the Old Testament and what has been prophesied in the future.

1. **Just as an aside, many of our confusions about the essence of God comes from a misunderstanding about the omnipresence of God. We limit the presence of God within our understanding of time. God created time. Whatever we might say about past, present, and future, they are encompassed by the omnipresence of God.**
2. **Some of these discussions we'll have over the next few weeks are a mystery and we need to be o.k. with that. But we must never relegate God to the constraints of time! If He is creator God, even time submits to Him! Maybe Augustin can help us:**
   "It is not in time that You are before all time: otherwise You would not be before all time. You are before all the past by the eminence of Your ever present eternity: and You dominate all the future in as much as it is still to be: and once it has come it will be past: but Thou art always the Selfsame, and Thy years shall not fail. Your years are as a single day; and Your day comes not daily but is today, a today which does not yield place to any tomorrow or follow upon any yesterday. In You today is eternity."
3. **Augustine is a brave man trying to explain an incomprehensible thing. He's trying to express the reason why God can impart a vision to Isaiah in the 7th Century B.C. that lets us know that Jesus is our king!**

Isaiah 9:6-7 - 6 For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 The dominion will be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever. The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

4. **It's also why the Lord Jesus Christ can give a vision to the Apostle John in A.D. 95 about events which are yet to come!**

Revelation 19:11-16 - 11 Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and he judges and makes war with justice. 12 His eyes were like a fiery flame, and many crowns were on his head. He had a name written that no one knows except himself. 13 He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God. 14 The armies that were in heaven followed him on white horses, wearing pure white linen. 15 A sharp sword came from his mouth, so that he might strike the nations with it. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty. 16 And he has a name written on his robe and on his thigh: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

D. Jesus is our brother, but He is more than just our brother. Jesus is our king! When He returns to fully consummate His Kingdom, He will come to judge and make war with:
Justice

1. **In other words, evil in this world will face the full brunt of Jesus our king! The judgement of God is ushered in by the One who is Faithful and True and His judgement is just! Righteousness and justice come from the same root word, and both get at the idea of:**
   God's power to make right what has been wrong!
2. **How do we know that God's future judgement will be Faithful and True? It will be ushered in by Jesus our king who demonstrated for us the supreme display of God's justice (of making right what has been wrong) on the cross! The robe dipped in blood isn't from the future battle. Jesus will destroy those who come against Him with the power of His word. This will be a reminder that Jesus our king paid the full penalty of sin, and He is just and righteous in His judgement.**
3. **The 2nd Coming of Jesus in which all will recognize Him as king isn't disconnected from Jesus who reigns as king today! His current reign that ushered in His kingdom and His reign that will one day be realized by all has already been secured. It's a done deal! God has done the unthinkable in making right the sinful wrongs of humanity. He sent our brother and king Jesus to die in our place. Jesus has paid the penalty for the sins of humanity, but not all accept the gift. His kingdom is an upside-down kingdom. This means that His kingdom goes against the grain of this world and few people embrace it. It's been that way since the Father inaugurated the kingdom of Jesus!**

4. In between Isaiah 9 and Revelation 19, we have a very interesting conversation between Jesus and Pilate in John 18. Jesus is on trial before Pilate, but it's difficult to determine who is really on trial. Jesus never ceased to be king even in the face of suffering and death. This is the way of our King!

John 18:33-38 - 33 Then Pilate went back into the headquarters, summoned Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered, "Are you asking this on your own, or have others told you about me?" 35 "I'm not a Jew, am I?" Pilate replied. "Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?" 36 "My kingdom is not of this world," said Jesus. "If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." 37 "You are a king then?" Pilate asked. "You say that I'm a king," Jesus replied. "I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." "What is truth?" said Pilate.

a. Something about Jesus has indicated to Pilate that Jesus is a man of authority, but Pilate relents to the shouts of the people. Barabas is released, while Jesus is handed over to crucifixion.

b. What do we need to know about Jesus our king in this most crucial exchange? In the face of impending suffering and death, Jesus is still orchestrating the unfolding events. He's king! Jesus has responded to Pilate that He is in fact King, but His kingdom does not originate from this world. This does not mean that Jesus's kingdom has no power over this world, that His kingdom isn't greater than this world, nor that somehow Jesus has no control over what Pilate is doing. These are all false assumptions.

5. Jesus our king has supreme authority and power over this world, but He received that authority and power through:

suffering to the point of death on the cross.

a. His kingdom is an upside-down kingdom that comes from above! Pilate was thinking about Jesus as king on Pilate's terms. Jesus rejected that kind of power and authority when Satan tried to dangle it in His face! If His kingdom could originate through the "systems" of this world, then His servants would have fought! Jesus could have called down legions of angels, but He refused to do so.

b. Why did our King willingly die? What kind of king is that?

Jesus would have won the battle, but He would have lost an irrevocable war! Eternal salvation could not come through tanks and bombs. The Jews were zealous about overthrowing the Romans and setting up their own rule with grand ideals and aspirations that would have led to a different flavor of injustice because what people need isn't more power but freedom from our sins so that we can come alive to God!

6. Jesus our king has ushered in His kingdom in the only way possible:

Divine Love

a. Perfect love isn't weak; it's the most powerful force in creation because it is the very essence and character of God. Because love doesn't force compliance, nor does it sit back passively or with apathy. Love sacrifices whatever it takes for the highest good of another. That isn't a weakness. That's as strong as it gets!

E. One day Jesus will be fully recognized as King! His love will also demand His justice. He's patiently waiting that all would choose Him as King but it's a choice that isn't forced. Jesus as king, willingly laid down His life. He's received all authority but in between His resurrection and return it's His love that draws people to Himself. The servant king calls us to listen to His voice so that we might recognize the truth and follow!

1. The same way that the kingdom was initiated by King Jesus is the same way the kingdom is expanding today! The kingdom of Jesus is expanded by pursuing Jesus and His upside-down kingdom that goes against the grain of this world's systems. Jesus our king calls us to come follow Him and He then calls us to pick up our cross. Not our sword. He told Peter to put that down on the night of His arrest and later to pick up a cross instead.

2. When I was in Pakistan last month, it changed my perspective on some things. There's a reason why the Church is growing rapidly in places like China, Iran, and Chad, because they are living out the divine love of their King Jesus even when they get mocked, beaten, or killed. I got to experience a taste of that in Pakistan.

F. One day Jesus will return as King and make all the sad things untrue. He will execute His justice and make every wrong right. His love demands that He do so. But for now, His voice summons us to follow in His truth. To recognize Him as King and follow Him in His kingdom that goes against the grain or flow of this broken world. His words haven't changed, "For even the Son of Man [Our King] did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45