

Bible Study for Christ the King Sunday Nov 24, 2024

Our texts for this Sunday are:

- John 18:33-37
- Revelation 1:4b-8

Opening Question: How might being around different groups of people influence how you act with them? Said another way, are you always the same person or do you sometimes morph (alter who you are) to fit in with who you are with?

John 18:33-37

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷ Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

What questions do you have for this text?

How did Jesus show His power in the passage?

How does Jesus’ idea of power differ from the world’s view of power?

Of all the people we find in this story (Pilate, Jesus, the crowd outside), who seems to be most *in control* of themselves and the situation? Why is this ironic?

How would you characterize the government “of this world” Jesus speaks of in verse 36?

What is *power* and who has it? What do leaders use to obtain and keep their power?

As citizens of God’s Kingdom, in what ways are we currently under the *power* of a foreign government?

How do you manage your identity as a citizen of God’s realm and a citizen of this earthy realm? Are they two different identities? Are they always the same?

Do you think that it is difficult to hold the identity of a Christ Follower in this world? If yes, how so?

Do you think we can serve Christ and have worldly power at the same time? Why or why not? As Christians we call Jesus our King. Someone says to you, "I know you are a Christian. But each day, as you go about your business, what difference does knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior (King) make?" How would you answer?

Revelation 1:4b-8

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, 6and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. 8"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

What questions do you have for this text?

Does this passage bring you comfort or fear?

What does the phrase "who is and who was and who is to come" teach us about God?

What does it mean to have something *revealed* to you?

How should the book of Revelation affect our view of God and God's relationship with this world?

If this text and our Gospel text are about who we belong to in this world (and the next), then how are we (and who are we) called to be in this life?