

Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras
Christ the King: Matthew 25
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I have recently stopped watching the American news. I am irritated by the flood of stories of sexual misconduct. Almost every day we hear about new allegations made against highly profiled men in various industries. The campaign called “MeToo” became a rallying cry against sexual assault and harassment. These allegations are flooding social media. The news repeats stories of sexual misconduct over and over and over. I am tired of it. What about you?

These men who are accused of sexual misconduct are leaders and have followers. Many people look up to them. Unfortunately, people, particularly teenagers idolizing celebrities. When celebrities are accused of sexual misconduct, and they get away with it, then it is highly possible that their followers imitate them. It is also possible that their followers will be disappointed and stop trusting them.

Many times we end up being let down and hurt by people we idolize and admire. I personally idolize one person, that is, Jesus Christ. He is the one I put before everything. I have an icon of Jesus Christ the King in my home to remind me that Jesus is the King of my life. He is the one that I look up to, and I know he will never let me down. He keeps his promises, and he does not pretend to be who he is not.

Kings/ queens and presidents are responsible for taking care of their people. Many leaders and Kings or queens let their people down. They focus on themselves instead of seeking the welfare of their people. Ezekiel gives us the qualities of a godly leader. He describes God as the faithful Shepherd who takes care of his flock. He binds up the injured and strengthens the weak and feeds them with justice (Ezekiel 34:16).

On the feast of Christ the King, we are called to acknowledge that Jesus is, in fact, our King. He has authority in my life and yours. “Jesus never claimed an earthly kingship. He spoke of himself frequently as one who was announcing a new kind of reign, the Kingdom of God. Jesus sometimes spoke of this kingdom as something that was coming in the future, and sometimes he spoke as if it was already present.”¹

Matthew describes “Jesus sit[ing] on his throne at the end of time, surrounded by the whole company of heaven... It is Christ the King, preparing to judge the world, preparing to evaluate everything that has happened since all things came to be.”² “In that final judgment, [Jesus looks] into our hearts and minds reviewing what we have done with our lives, like a shepherd, Jesus will sort humanity into two groups – the sheep and the goats.”³

¹ JOE SCOTT, “Why do we call Jesus a king?” *Busted Halo*, MAY 18, 2008 (accessed on November 25, 2017). <http://bustedhalo.com/questionbox/why-do-we-call-jesus-a-king>.

² Barbara Brown Taylor, *The Preaching Life*

³ Westwood Presbyterian Church/July 19, 2009 *Where’s Jesus?/Matthew 25:31-46* Rev. Dr. Lynn Cheyney

Jesus as a king does not only take care of his people, but he also commands them. We need to remember that a king or president or a leader has authority to command their people. Can Christ our King command you or me? We might be the kind of people who do not like anyone to tell us what we need to do. Unfortunately, many Christians picture Jesus as a harmless person, who talks about peace, love, and the beautiful nature but he will never rebuke or command us to repent.

Matthew corrects this fantasy picture of Jesus. Jesus tells the parable of a king who chooses the disguises of poverty, nakedness, and imprisonment to test the loyalty of those who have promised to serve. Jesus as faithful King cares about the poor and the marginalized. The cry of the poor has become Jesus own cry. As a king, Jesus commands you and me to take care of the disadvantaged. Notice that he does not command as to kill worshipers as ISIS did in Egypt, or slaving people and rape women. He commands us to be merciful by taking care of the poor.

If we fail to do so, we cannot claim Jesus to be our King. Jesus will deny us. We separate ourselves from Jesus when we fail to take care of our neighbor. A man or a woman who takes advantage of the vulnerable cannot claim Jesus to be their King. A person who takes advantage of someone sexually cannot claim to be a member of Jesus' kingdom.

Jesus is a King and a role model. He teaches us how to live our life. He modeled the kingdom of God he preached. Jesus Christ is the only one who will never let you down. You will never be ashamed of claiming Jesus as your King.

