

## Weekly Newsletter: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### Reflection: Five Ways to Honour Jesus as King

By Joe Barnard

We might think that, because we live in a land where there is a royal family, we already know what it is to relate to a king. Yet, the truth is that kingship in the Bible is a very different thing from kingship in the modern west. When we talk about Jesus as ascending the heavenly throne, we are describing a position of power, authority, and responsibility that is without comparison to any contemporary political or royal office. Jesus is not just a king. He is the king of kings and lord of lords. He is the God-man who does not just rule over a nation – or even an empire – but rather over the whole of creation, visible and invisible.

Once we realise the preeminent reign of Jesus, we must begin to rethink what it means to live before King Jesus as his subject. After all, kingship is not a mere concept that is only of interest in a theological classroom. Kingship ought to shape the lived experience of Christians day-in, day-out. To have faith in Jesus is, to a large extent, to trust in his rule. There is no such thing as a ‘private’ Christian. We either honour our king in public by living in allegiance to his authority, or we dishonour his name by embodying a counterfeit existence. There is no middle ground.

In case some of this sounds detached from normal life, let’s move from theory to practice. Here are five concrete ways that we can honour Jesus as king in our daily lives.

#### 1 – Acknowledge the ‘Weight’ of Jesus’ Majesty

We have all experienced the shift of attention that happens when someone famous or important steps into a room. The centre of gravity shifts due to the social weight of such a person.

Something similar ought to happen each day as we acknowledge the enthroned status of Jesus. Politicians, supervisors, and celebrities ought to lose some of the felt-power that we attach to them as we remind ourselves of the incomparable majesty of the Son of God. To know Jesus is to have a new star shift the orbit of our lives. Henceforth, whatever we do, we do ultimately for one reason: to honour His name.

#### 2 – Submit to His Authority

It’s hard to imagine telling an emperor, ‘No!’, especially if all of his commands are good and life-giving. And, yet, this is what we often do before King Jesus. Whereas the angels instantly heed to slightest nod of Christ, human beings somehow feel at liberty to debate and disregard the clearest of laws of Jesus. We ought to pause and reconsider just how insolent such behaviour is. Jesus’ commands are not good advice; they are divine commands. We need to treat them as such.

### 3 – Be Ashamed of Being Ashamed of Jesus in Public

No one is ashamed of being on the side of a conquering king when he walks triumphantly through a defeated city. As disciples of Jesus, we need to realise that our king has already had his decisive victory over evil. Paul says in Colossians, “He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them” (2:15).

Knowing this, we ought to be ashamed of any shame we feel for being identified with Jesus. People may scorn the faith that we have in the gospel; however, we need to frame such temporary slights on a wide canvas. Jesus has promised that he will come again in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels (Luke 9:26). Will we be ashamed of standing with Christ when we see him in all of his heavenly majesty? Not a chance. If we will rejoice in his glory on that day, we need to boast in the same glory throughout our lives- even in the moments when faith results in ridicule and opposition.

### 4 – Make Yourself Available to Jesus as His Servant

To have a king is to be a subject. This simple truth ought to radically change how we approach each day. There is something egregiously arrogant about beginning a day with the question, “What do I want to do?” Anyone who acknowledges his first allegiance to the Son of God must begin the day with an altogether different question: “How can I serve *you* today?”

### 5 – Live with the Confidence of a Sister or Brother of the King

Jesus is the unique king who gave himself in sacrificial love for his people. Through his invitation, we have not just become citizens of his kingdom; we have become siblings in his family. This knowledge can give us great confidence as we approach the heavenly king. One of the great privileges of being an adopted sibling of Jesus is that the Throne of Glory is for us a Throne of Grace. What a joy to know that we do not need to hide our weakness from our king. His power is not against us, but for us. He is the unique sovereign lord who looks to the humble and says, “Come to me all you who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest.”

## Raising Kids for Christ Conference

Give thanks for the conference on Saturday. We had about 63 parents and youth workers from all over Scotland attend. Mel’s sessions were encouraging and challenging and here’s an email we received from a group of mums who attended –

*‘Just a note to say how grateful we were to be able to join your training day with Mel Lacey on Saturday. It was helpful, thought provoking and we also enjoyed the warm hospitality that the Holyrood Evangelical church family provided. It was a real blessing to us.*



*Thanks again for organising a great, worthwhile training day and making us, from other churches feel so welcome. It was very kind of you.’*

## Church Maintenance

As Ken is not able to attend church in person for the foreseeable future, all matters relating to the building maintenance should in the first instance be referred to Roy Tatton. He will be able to decide how best to deal with the situation and contact the relevant contractor if required. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Prayer Meeting – this week



We're looking forward to having Juliet Philip join us on Wednesday to share about the work that she is involved in with CBR UK (Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform UK). We heard from Dave Brennan at an Equip session last year and Juliet is based in Edinburgh and volunteers with them.

We'll meet at 7pm on Zoom and codes will be sent on nearer the time.

## Litter picks with Friends of Montgomery Street Park

We've arranged two Sundays (19<sup>th</sup> March and 21<sup>st</sup> May) to litter pick with the FoMSP. We'll head over to the park at 12 noon and all the equipment will be provided. Keep the dates free and give thanks for the opportunity to serve the community in this way.

## Annual General Meeting

Save the date! The church AGM will take place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm on Zoom.

## Easter Events

As Easter approaches there are a number of events to highlight –

- We are hosting the **Scripture Union Easter Adventure** on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March from 2- 4.30pm. It is open to all P4-P7 children. Join us to explore the Easter Story together and discover why it's so important. The afternoon will include games, crafts, snack, songs and time to look at the Bible together. If you would like any more information, please contact [edinburgh@suscotland.org.uk](mailto:edinburgh@suscotland.org.uk) and go [here](#) to book.
- Christ Church, Britwell Crescent are organising an **Easter Event** for kids on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April from 2- 5 pm. Come along for games, crafts, drama and stories of the first Easter. For all primary aged kids and contact [liz@holyroodevangelical.org](mailto:liz@holyroodevangelical.org) for more info.



- We are all warmly invited to join with **Meadowbank Church for a Communion Service** on Good Friday (7<sup>th</sup> April) at 12 noon. It will be conducted by their Interim Moderator, Rev Bill Wishart.
- **Origin Scotland** have their annual Easter concert 'Resurrection' on Easter Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> April) at 7.30pm in the Usher Hall. The concert brings together Christians from all over the central belt to celebrate the greatest event in history in an evening of music and worship. Special guests Allan McKinlay, Steph Macleod, Fiona Crow, and guest speaker Peter Anderson (City on a Hill). Tickets can be bought [here](#).

## Church Calendar

For your prayers and info –

- Monday:
  - Baby & Toddler Group from 10am – 11.30am
  - Warm Space from 12.30 – 4pm
  - Pastoral Care Team at 7.30pm at Alasdair's
- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting with Juliet Philip (CBR UK) at 7pm on Zoom
- Thursday: Men's Discipleship in person at 7.30am or 10.30am
- Sunday:
  - Worship Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching.
  - Home Groups – contact [Liz@holyroodevangelical.org](mailto:Liz@holyroodevangelical.org) for more information



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