

The Joy of Submitting to the Forever King

From the Advent Series: Worship the King

John 1:1-5

December 3, 2017

BIG IDEA

The child born in Bethlehem, is a king. He is not just *becoming* a king, or *will* become a king. He *is* a king and always *has been* a king. He is your king who reaches out to hold you, love you, transform you, and save you.

REVIEW

These are some of the main ideas discussed last week:

God has been good to Ridgewood Church! I am thankful for everything he has done for us and I am hopeful for the future.

1. I Am Thankful for Ridgewood's Past

Our church was born during the Civil War. Throughout 152 years of ministry, God laid a wonderful foundation for us as we head into the future.

2. I Am Thankful for the Present

God is doing amazing things! We are growing. People are being saved and baptized. I praise God and am so thankful for the movement of his Spirit amongst us!

3. I Am Thankful for a Limitless Future

Ridgewood can make disciples. Its mission and vision statements speak of a forward-moving church that seeks to "Make Jesus Known Through Community Impact."

4. Our Strategy Involves Presenting the Gospel

Our strategy involves three major categories: connection, multiplication, and church health. Each of these categories are exciting and give me great hope moving forward.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context:

Jesus is much more than a baby born in a stable. He is a past, present, and future king. John helps us to understand the work and ministry of Jesus before he came to earth, his present ministry, and his future magnificent rule.

John 1:1-5: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:14: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Revelation 19:11-16: Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God (That's John's title for him that fits with the text in the Gospel of John that we read earlier). ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Revelation 21:5-7: And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

MAIN IDEAS

Our examination of the forever king is divided up into three simple segments:

- His life and work before the incarnation.
- His ministry from the incarnation to the present.
- His future reign as the forever king.



1. Segment One: The Pre-existent Reign of the King

As far back as man can imagine, “In the beginning,” Jesus has existed. Thus:

The King Has Always Been

Throughout the massive time that is “eternity,” Jesus is existent. He is not only with God, he *is* God. This passage helps us understand the doctrine of the Trinity in that the Godhead is seen through the lens of Father and Son.

- a. What would you say if someone asked you why you believe Jesus is real?

- b. Does John 1:1 help you answer that question? (*John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*)

Why was Jesus called “the Word?” It seems that:

The King *IS* the Decisive Message from God

In other words, Jesus not only taught us about God, but revealed God in his life and actions. He personifies God. He is the revealed Word of God.

- c. What are some ways that Jesus personifies God?

- d. Do you think that the gospel writers knew that Jesus was God? Why or why not?

2. Segment Two: The Incarnational Ministry and Present Reign of the King

After abiding in heaven for all of eternity, never separated from his Father or the Holy Spirit, Jesus came to earth on a mission. He came in the flesh to set up a new kingdom!



The King Offers a New and Wonderful Kingdom!

Israel rejoiced until it realized that Jesus' kingdom would be different. It would be an upside down kingdom. Instead of living by the letter of the law, Jesus wanted hearts. He wanted devotion to him. He claimed to be the Son of God and also made this wonderful claim that he could provide eternal life.

- a. Why do you think Jesus is jealous for devotion?

- b. How is Jesus' Kingdom different than that of the Pharisees?

Israel Was Not Ready for This Kind of King

Though the prophets proclaimed the joy that would be found in Messiah, he was rejected by his own people. He died for sin. But he was raised and lives forever!

- c. What does the present ministry of Jesus mean to you?

- d. What would have happened if he would've stayed dead?

3. Segment Three: The Future and Victorious Reign of the King

In the book of Revelation, John describes Jesus as a conquering king that will defeat evil and reign for all time. In Rev. 19:16 he is described as "King of kings and Lord of lords."

Revelation 19:16 - On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.



The King Will Proclaim Victory Over His Enemies, Judge, and Reign Forever

- a. What does this title “King of kings” mean to your walk with Jesus?

- b. What does this title mean for your future?

Jesus is the righteous judge. After bringing his righteousness to earth for the last time, he will reign forever. Jesus reigns now in the hearts of believers and will one day reign on his eternal throne.

- c. Has your view of Jesus changed at all during this sermon or study? How?

PRAY

Father God, thank you for the eternal reign of Jesus. Thank you for bestowing him with power and the authority to save us from our sin. We look forward to spending eternity with you and with Jesus! Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- *To Live is Christ to Die is Gain* – a book from Matt Chandler (David C. Cook).
- *Jesus Among Secular Gods: The Countercultural Claims of Christ* – a book from Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale (FaithWords).

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

“Rebellion Against the King,” from the series: Worship the King!

