

Title: Christ, the perfect King  
Text: Hebrews 1.5-9  
Theme: Christ is unlike any king you have ever known or imagined.  
Series: Advent 2015 #3  
Prop Stmtnt: The Father establishes Jesus as King because he is the most amazing King, ever!

Read Text:

In our country, we have a love/hate relationship with royalty. Obviously, we had a little issue with King George III over taxes, tea and being forced to give lodging to visiting British soldiers. And yet today, whenever Prince William and Kate come to visit, we treat them like, well, royalty. And they do not belong to us, but we hear about them all the time. Why? Because people want to know about them.

We grow up with stories of royalty. Just think of some of the popular Disney movies, like Frozen, Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin, Tangled, Snow White, Cinderella, and Sleeping Beauty. Then there is the greatest movie of all time ever made, The Princess Bride. They all have to do with kings, princes, princesses, kingdoms and palaces, right? We love those stories so much, they are in most of our homes, but when Jeb Bush throws his hat into the ring in order to run for president, one of the biggest problems that he has is that he is a Bush. His father and brother were presidents and we don't do dynasties. We are distrustful of entrusting too much power into one person and certainly into one family, and with good reason. And yet a benevolent dictator is the most efficient government. But who can find a benevolent and powerful ruler? Have you ever heard of a king who has absolute power and used that authority for the good of his people? God did. His name is Jesus and he is unlike any king that you have ever known. This first chapter of Hebrews introduces the reader to various aspects of the person of Christ, which are explored in more depth throughout the book. In preparation for and celebration of the Advent season, we are looking at 5 of those aspects, one of which is that Christ is the perfect King. The author of Hebrews is extolling the supremacy of Christ. To whom can you compare Jesus? He is so glorious and amazing. He is more amazing than any of the prophets, more amazing than any priest, more amazing than any angel and more amazing than any king. And part of the evidence that the author of Hebrews uses to prove this, is by going back into the Old Testament and using God's own words to show God's attitude toward his own Son. When you read what the Father says about his Son you discover this:

1. **The Father loves to talk about his Son!**

Let's look at this text a little closer. The first part of verse 5 is a quote from Psalm 2. Psalm 2 is the King Psalm and it speaks of the establishment and coronation of the ultimate King upon his throne. The phrase "begotten" is not inferring that Christ had a beginning, which would mean that he is a created being. He is the eternal King whose exaltation after his death is the means to his being established as King. Last week we looked at the fact that after Christ died and rose again that he ascended back into heaven

where he sat down at the right hand of the Father. His being seated, was not because he was tired, it was because he had accomplished our salvation and was now being honored as the King. His being seated and crowned in heaven was the “Today I have begotten you” moment. His being crowned as King in heaven anticipates the day and guarantees the day when he will be crowned as King on earth. That is why Jesus taught us to pray, let your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Now, the author is saying that the Father doesn’t say anything like this about anyone else, not even angels, because Jesus is uniquely his Son. The coronation of Jesus as King (5a) is directly tied to the relationship that the Father has with his Son (5b). 5b is quote from 2 Samuel 7 where God is establishing a covenant with David and promising him that his son will sit on David’s throne, and God is establishing a line of kings through David that will reign forever, which of course is fulfilled in Christ. The promise to David’s son, that God would “be to him a father and he shall be to me a son” was partially fulfilled in Solomon but was also a prophecy that pointed to Christ. So, right here in v 5, we have the big idea and the main point that I want you to grasp and enjoy. The Father establishes Jesus as King because Jesus is the most amazing King, ever! He is the most amazing King ever because he is the son of God. So, of course the Father loves to talk about his Son.

#### **A. Because he loves the Son.**

Psalm 2 is a song. Remember? Remember that Psalms are songs and were sung, not read? Psalm 2 is the King Son. It is the song that the Father sings into the universe about the excellence of his Son. Can you imagine? The Father not only loves the Son, but the Son loves him back. The Father is the recipient of the perfect love of his Son. I said last week that if you could drill down into the heart of the Trinity, you would hit the mother lode of love and the result would be an unstoppable geyser of love that would explode all over the universe. We get a glimpse of that in this text where in the writer is using God’s own words to help us understand how delighted and overjoyed the Father is with his Son.

What do you love to talk about? What do you love to sing about? I used to have this Greek professor in college who loved UK basketball. Every day that we were supposed to have a quiz, one of us would walk into class and mention to the teacher something about UK’s season. That was like money in the bank. It was a guaranteed 15 minutes of class time that we could use to cram for the quiz, or in some cases, meant we ran out of time for it, which was even better. That teacher’s name was Jerry Benge; ever hear of him?

Do you want to see the Father light up? Do you want to see the Father get excited? Ask him about his Son. The Father and the Son enjoy a relationship that is unique in all creation. Therefore, the Father talks about the Son in a way that is not only different than how he talks about the creation (like angels) but the Father talks about the Son in a way that is beautiful. It is beautiful and satisfying even while it creates within us a longing to be in a perfect relationship like that. Here’s what I mean.

#### **B. Because he knows that his Son is truly glorious.**

The Father is so proud of his Son that he speaks in glowing terms of him. Now, if I told you that my grandson (Pic #1) is the most amazing, most gifted, (Pic #2) most adorable, most incredible, (Pic #3) most loveable, happiest (Pic #4) and delightful boy in the world, you would laugh and say that I was prejudiced. And some of you would argue because your son, or daughter, or grandchild is that to you. But, while we may feel that way about our kids or grandkids, we do not know all of the kids in the world and cannot say those things with certainty. But, when the Father speaks as he does about his Son, he is not making it up. The Son is amazing and wonderful and the Father knows this like no one else because he knows the Son better than anyone. The Father knows that his Son is the real deal. The Father knows that his Son is worth believing in and worth trusting and worth worshiping and worth following. There is no one else like him. I am going to circle back to this in a minute.

### **C. Because the exaltation of Jesus results in greater glory for the Father.**

Jesus radiates his Father (v.3). Jesus is the exact imprint of the nature of the Father (v.3). If God had a body, he would look like Jesus. Well, that's the point. The fact is, God took upon himself a body and it is Jesus. That is what the Son did and the Father does not want us to misunderstand the Son. The Father knows the glory of Jesus because the glory of Jesus is the glory of God. The glory of Jesus is the shared glory of the Father, Son and Spirit. But, when Christ became a man, he veiled that glory. So much of who Christ is, was hidden. It was hidden because people could not handle it. The coming of Christ was an act of incredible humility on the part of Christ, but Christ did not resent doing it. Isn't that amazing? Now, try to focus on this, because I think this is particularly powerful.

Let's say that you are the CEO of a company. You are accustomed to being treated with respect and some privileges. However, your company gets bought out by another and you are no longer needed. You are out of a job. And while you are looking for another position, you take a job at the carwash spraying down cars for part of the day and drying them for part of the day. Managers and vice presidents who last week reported to you and respected you are now driving through the car wash and you are washing their cars. They're looking at you with amazement and you know that they are going back and talking about it because for the next week it seems as if every employee who used to work for you is coming to get their car washed, just to see if it is really you. Would you be tempted to be embarrassed?

Jesus wouldn't be embarrassed. Jesus probably spent 18 years working as a carpenter in Nazareth. Nazareth was not a city of destination. People did not aspire to get to Nazareth. But Jesus was not embarrassed to live in Nazareth. He was not embarrassed to work in Nazareth. He was not embarrassed to be seen day after day, cutting wood, building tables, chairs, beds, desks, cupboards and counters. Jesus was happy to be born into a poor family. He was content to be raised in Nazareth. He was fine with becoming one of us and subjecting himself to our limitations. He never gritted his teeth simply gutted it out like you do when you think that you have to do something that is beneath you. Nothing was ever beneath him, although everything was under him. And what is more, the Father was not embarrassed that his Son was doing that, but instead was thrilled and overjoyed.

Why? Because the Father knows things about his Son that you need to understand. But it is difficult for us to understand these things about Jesus, because we frankly don't even have a category in our brain for him, do we?

Now, let me tie these last two thoughts together. The reason why the Father loves to talk about his Son is because the Father knows that the Son is truly glorious and he knows that by exalting his Son, the Father is exalted as well, and that is good and it is good for the Father to do that. But, one of the most amazing things about the Son that reveals his glory is his humility. The Father knows this about his Son. The Father delights in this about his Son. The Father is committed to revealing this about his Son. As is the Son.

In Matthew 11.29, Jesus says something in a way that is not recorded anywhere else. Jesus exposes his heart. Jesus says, "*I am gentle and lowly in heart.*" In our study of Matthew's gospel we have seen this gentleness and humility displayed consistently. When he sees people who are hungry, he is moved with compassion and he gets them food. When he sees people sick and dying, broken and lost, he reaches out and touches them and goes to them and heals them and encourages them. When he sees people bound and terrorized by demons and terrorizing others, he goes to that person and releases them from the darkness. He feels our needs. He identifies with our burdens. His heart is moved with pity for us. He is God, with us and he does not resent it because he is gentle and lowly in heart. But, here is the tension, and it is an enormous tension. We don't know what to do with a king who is like that! As I said, we don't have a category for that.

It was fine with people as long as Jesus was gentle and lowly and healing people. But, when he said that he was God, he went from being respected, to being hated. Why? Why was that so bad? It happened because we do not think of kings like that. Kings are supposed to rule with might and power, intimidation and strength, threats and armies, palaces and riches. Jesus was not like that. Jesus is the perfect King because he is the King that we desperately need but he is not the King that we want. The fact that he was different was amazing to some and threatening to others. So, they killed him. If you kill a king, then his reign is over, right? Not this one. Since you killed this king, the Father brought him back from the grave and installed him as King in heaven. Get this! He raised him from the dead, ascended him back into heaven, exalted him with honor, seated him at his right hand and crowned him as King BECAUSE he died. The Father exalted the Son BECAUSE the Son was gentle and lowly in heart. The Father exalted the Son and gave him a name that is above every name BECAUSE the Son humbled himself. The Son bowed his head in death as the substitutionary, propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of every person who would ever believe on him and therefore the Father will cause every knee to bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Why is the lowly and gentle life and substitutionary death of Christ so pleasing to the Father? Because Jesus puts the Father on display. Jesus is so amazing that the Father has ordained and decreed and established Jesus as King.

## 2. **The Father has established the Son as King.**

### A. **It was his plan all along.**

I could take you through the Bible going all the way back to the beginning and show you God's plan to establish his Son as the King. The Father made a kingdom in creation. He made a people in Adam and Eve and then again through Abraham, and now again in Christ. He promised this King and kingdom to the prophets and gave a preview of it to and through Israel. Then he did it. He brought the King into the world. But in spite of all of that Jesus was not the kind of king we expected. He wasn't born like we thought. He didn't look like we thought. He didn't act like we thought. But, he is exactly what we need. He is the King we would never elect. He is the King we would never choose. But, the good news is, He chose us! Matthew – behold your King.

### **B. There is no king like him.**

He exercises his authority for the good of his people, which is always for the glory of his Father. Verse 9 is a quote from Isaiah 61. This is the text that Jesus read in the synagogue in Nazareth. It speaks of how the Messiah, the true King will leverage his power for good. But what happens?

Let me give you an example. On January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued an executive order entitled The Emancipation Proclamation. In one order, the President changed the legal status of more than 3 million people from being enslaved, to being free. President Lincoln exercised his authority given to him under the war power's act to free 3 million people. Can you imagine being able to do that? Lincoln used his authority for the good of others but he paid for it with his life. Why? Because there are plenty of people in this world who are the sworn enemy of what is right, beautiful and good. To the slaves, Lincoln was a hero. To the slave owners and others, Lincoln was an enemy.

In the same way, Christ is beautiful and approachable to the humble and weak. He brings health to the sick and forgiveness to the penitent. He loves righteousness and He is anointed with the oil of gladness. His throne is forever and ever. But to the proud and self-righteous he is terrifying and yet indestructible. The text says that he is a king who has a scepter of uprightness. Think about that.

When Cathi and I were in Vienna, Austria we saw some of the crown jewels of the Hapsburg dynasty including the scepter of the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. (Picture) The crown symbolized his right to rule. His scepter symbolized his power. And the orb symbolized the scope of his realm. But notice the scepter. It is made of gold and jewels. The emperor had wealth at his disposal that he used to carry out his authority. Now, if you know anything about that history you know that the Holy Roman Empire was not holy. In fact, it wasn't Roman and it certainly was not an empire. But, it had impressive clothes and symbols. Jesus does not have a scepter with jewels; his is worth infinitely more than that. Jesus rules with the authority of uprightness.

But his reign of righteousness, his scepter of uprightness, his purity of being is terrifying to those who are guilty and who condone evil in their lives. Jesus reigns because of who he is and that will never change. But what he is (light and righteousness) exposes and therefore threatens darkness and sin. The person with the gun or the army or the nuclear

weapons is not ultimately in charge. The person who is in Christ is in the eternal kingdom. Right will prevail and that is why right always threatens the wrong. Even the wrong who are in positions of leadership are constantly threatened because that which is right will last forever. This is what is so dependable and glorious about Jesus. He does not get his power from the people. He is power. He does not stay in power on the will of the people. He is power. And what did he do with all that power and authority of position? He set it aside that he might live in your place and die in your place and pay for your sin. He not only is King, He is Savior! That is why...

Truth will win in the end. That which is right will prevail.

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth goodwill to men

And in despair I bowed my head  
There is no peace on earth I said  
For hate is strong that mocks the song  
Of peace on earth goodwill to men

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep  
God is not dead nor doth He sleep  
The wrong shall fail the right prevail  
With peace on earth goodwill to men

And why shall the right prevail? Because Jesus is King and his throne is forever and his scepter is uprightness. He cannot be bought. He owns it all. He cannot be fooled. He is the truth. He cannot be lost. He is the way. He cannot be stopped. He is the life. He cannot be outlasted. He is eternal. He cannot be misled. He is the light. He cannot be overpowered. He is omnipotent. He cannot be outsmarted. He is omniscient. He cannot be outrun. He is omnipresent. He cannot be overruled. He is the King.

Conclusion:

- Jesus is worth trusting because he cannot lose. (gospel)
- What is it about Jesus that causes the Father to rejoice, and angels to be amazed and the rest of us to be perplexed? It is the fact that he is God and he is King and he is so humble. So, what do you hate to do because you think that it is beneath you? What jobs at home or work do you view as being below your dignity? If Jesus happily took the lowest jobs and willingly did the most humble tasks, what could possibly be beneath you?
- Living for the glory of God means that we live in a way that puts God on display. What did Christ do that so honored the Father that the Father exalted him to the

highest place and gave him a name above every name? Christ humbled himself. Just as you are called to be a priest to one another by praying for one another, you are called to be a king to one another, by using your position to serve and care for one another. How can you use your position of leadership or influence to serve others?