

April 10, 2022

The Crucifixion of Jesus

John 19:16-22

This week's question is a very good one. It is designed to make you think and to challenge yourself. I think that there are two answers. On with the question: Is Jesus a king even if He dies on the cross?

Remember a few weeks ago we talked about the qualities of a good earthly king. Then before that we talked about the type of king Jesus was. Keep all of that in mind as you think about your answer. It will be helpful.

I think that it would be best to ask that question to you on Good Friday and then again on Easter Sunday morning at 7 AM. So put yourself at the foot of the cross of Our Lord. Specifically, 3 PM local Jerusalem time, when Jesus breathed His last breath and gave His soul to the Father. Listen to the crying, weeping and disappointment of those gathered there. Their hopes have been crushed with Jesus's death. Now their situation is truly hopeless. There is no future without their Lord Jesus who is now dead on a cross. How do they move forward from this point? Is Jesus still King now that He is dead? Many people gathered there would be very confused and may not be able to express how they actually feel. They are numb with shock and disappointment. Most would say Jesus is not a king.

Then fast forward from Calvary to Thalberg and Green Bay on April 17, 2022. Jesus is hailed as a King, Saviour and Messiah. We are an empty tomb people, an after the resurrection people. Easter Sunday makes us all of that and a Resurrection People. We see the situation very differently on Easter morning. Jesus is risen from the dead three days after He died on the cross. He is the King and the inspiration of our faith. Jesus reigns in our hearts and minds. It is there that He is King. As He said to Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this earth." It is in heaven and in the hearts and minds who believe in Him.

With every earthly king there is always a successor when they die. The church on earth was no different. When Jesus ascended into heaven the church needed an earthly leader to guide it. Many have said that the first leader was the Virgin Mary. She being His mother made her an obvious choice. She was Jesus's closest human relation. Mary moved to Greece with John and James guided the church from Jerusalem. James was Jesus's half- brother. He was Joseph's son from his first marriage.

Back to our question. I think that you need Good Friday to understand Easter Sunday. You also need Easter Sunday to really understand the events on Good Friday. They both explain the other and put them in context. Easter Sunday's empty tomb and the resurrection of Jesus are the keys to understanding everything from Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and every Easter since. Even though Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday, Easter tells us that He was a King. He was so much more than an earthly King. Jesus is a Heavenly King and more than that. Jesus is the Son of God. As I often say, God far exceed our expectations and understandings when He deals with us. Jesus is a King in people's

hearts and minds. That is the most powerful place to rule from. That is stronger than any earthly king in a palace.

We are blessed to be a post resurrection people. We live in the after-glow of the resurrection. For us there is only one answer to our question. YES, Jesus is still a king even though He died on the cross. For the people who were actually there on Good Friday, they might have a different answer. Their answer would change greatly on Easter Sunday morning. Then they would realize that Jesus was a King. That He was so much more than an earthly king. He was the Son of God, who saved us from our sins by dying on the cross. That His death destroyed our death. When we leave this world we go on to eternal life. All because of what our King Jesus did on the cross on Good Friday.

God bless you all and have a great week, Pastor D