

Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

November 20, 2005

Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17; Psalm 23; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28; Matthew 25:31-46

Preaching by: S. Mary Agnes Lanthier, O.P.

Come, blessed of my Father.

The Sunday Missal reminds us that if we want to understand the Scriptures, we must go to the land of the Scriptures.

The land of the Scriptures – a land of shepherds and flocks, a land where the king was a leader of his people. (The term king and leader are identical in Biblical culture.) (St. Joseph Sunday Missal p. 632)

It is not difficult to understand why in the First Reading Ezekiel, using the imagery of shepherd and flock, pictures for us what kind of a King, God was to His people, “I myself will look after my sheep...I will rescue them from every place where they are scattered.”

So, what Kind of a king was God the Father?

One who gives loving service to His people. “The lost I will bring back; the injured I will bind up; the sick I will heal.”

As I realize how great the love of God the Father was for His People, and that His loving care extends to the present, I wonder if I have neglected to appreciate this loving Father as Person, neglected to own His love, to embrace it, to love in return.

A personal relationship with Jesus, yes. With God the Father? Through the imagery of the shepherd, expressed by Ezekiel, God the Father indeed shows us what kind of King He was and is, a loving Father who reaches out for our love!

And what does the term Kingship mean to Christ?

His life as Jesus of Nazareth, a life of constant giving: preaching the Good News, healing, restoring to life, forgiving, and dying.

What does the term Kingship mean to Christ?

“The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Jn 3:13)

“Hence the true meaning of His Kingship is revealed only when He is raised high on the cross.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 440)

That is what Kingship meant to Christ.

What should the Kingship of Christ mean to us?

Jesus' kingdom now is a constant warfare against evil. We should be part of that warfare against evil. How? *His command of love lived out in our daily life is the criterion which will identify the followers of Christ the King.*

Jesus graphically expressed this criterion at the portrayal of the Last Judgment (Gospel) where He identified Himself with the poor and needy of the world: **“When I was sick, you visited me.”**

And when he bids us to extend our love to the most marginalized – **“What you have done to the least of my brothers and sisters you have done to me!”**

Come, blessed of my Father ...