

Christ the King homily by Fr. Gabor 2018

Please read first John 18:33-37

Today we remember that Christ is a King, but it should also be a reminder to us that when we were baptised Jesus called us to share in his kingship and be the same kind of King as he is.

The Gospels give us a picture of Jesus as someone who is a King that brings the best out of his followers, by teaching them and encouraging them to love and forgive unconditionally, just as the heavenly Father loves and forgives us when we repent our sins. Therefore we are also called to teach and encourage others, especially as parents or grandparents or godparents, and to love and be merciful to others.

We can also realise easily through the Gospels that as a King Jesus does not live in castles, but in simple ordinary circumstances, and that through his love and mercy he wants to live in hearts that are broken, contrite, humble and warm; he wants to enter in every human heart where the doors are open. Therefore we should strive to be humble, contrite and warm hearted, so that He and others may live in our hearts and we may live in Him and other people's hearts.

Christ doesn't engage in battles with weapons nor in battles that are fought with words, and He doesn't fall out with others, but He engages in battles against our spiritual enemies and gives us spiritual weapons that are mentioned by St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, such as truth, righteousness, readiness, the shield of faith and the sword of His Spirit, which is His Word (cf. Eph 6: 14-18). These are Christ's weapons. Therefore we should remember that our real enemies are not you and I, but forces that lie hidden in us and can turn us into enemies of each other. So instead of fighting with each other, let's resist the temptation to fall out with each other.

The outcome of Jesus' battles is not power over a foreign nation, but power over evil and inner peace. So let's not strive for power over each other, but for power over evil, by God's grace.

As a King Jesus does not want to be put above others, but inside others, so that He may live in us and we in Him (cf. Jn 15:9; Rom 13:14; Gal 3:27).

He is a servant King and as such he serves what people really need, and not his own popularity, as many of today's political leaders do. Therefore as Kings we shouldn't seek popularity, but to serve the real needs of others, whether as a parent or grandparent or friend or a colleague.

He as a King has a daily contact with his followers; no need to make an appointment with Him. He is there wherever we are and whenever we want to speak to Him. Let us also try to be there for those who are in a real need that he or she cannot meet by his/her own ability.

He is a just King, and provides justice to His people not on the basis of what they expect from him, but on the basis of how much they have helped each other, because 'when you gave food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty you did it to me', says the Lord.

He is not a distant King who doesn't realise what is going on in the hearts and minds of his people, but He feels with His people, and even cries with them, as He did at the grave of Lazarus, His friend. So, as St. Paul says in Rom 12:15 let us 'rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn.'

Finally He is not a King who expects His followers to die for Him, but it is He himself who dies for them, because He loves them so much. Married couples when you entered into a Christian marriage this is what you promised to one another. So ask for God's grace so that sticking to this promise your love and mercy for each other will deepen your marriage bond.

So then let not treat Christ as a worldly King; by putting him on a pedestal and looking up on Him from a distance, with only fear and respect in our hearts, but let us open our hearts to Him, invite Him in, let Him rule our hearts and build a heart to heart relationship with Him, so that He may live in us and we in Him, and so that we may be so completely one with Him that when someone looks at Him that person may see Christ smiling back through our face and looks into his/her eyes through our eyes, and embraces others through our arms and speaks to others through our voice.

That's what I call as His real Kingship in our lives.