

Sermon Guide: Rediscovering the Good News of Jesus: “A Different Kind of King” Samuel Voo | Jan. 21

This sermon from Samuel is the third in a series exploring the New Testament concept of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Following up two previous messages in which Sam emphasized the kingship of Jesus as being central to the idea of the gospel, this message zooms in on the question: What kind of king is Jesus? The New Testament understanding of Jesus as king is not one of earthly power or dominion, but rather of humility, sacrifice, and servanthood.

Sam begins by comparing both ancient and modern understandings of kingship. On the one hand, ancient kings were often seen as absolute rulers with divine rights, wielding power that was both feared and revered. On the other hand, modern-day monarchs, at least in the Western world, are largely ceremonial figures with limited political influence. From Philippians 2:5-12, we see how Paul outlines a three-part journey of Jesus: His pre-human existence in divine form, His incarnation and life as a servant on Earth and death on a cross, and His subsequent resurrection, and exaltation and ascent to heaven. This trajectory from divine to human and back to divine is likened to a parabola, illustrating the depth of Jesus' humility and the magnitude of His sacrifice of love. In short, Jesus is a king like no other: not wielding power for power's sake as in ancient times; yet deserving of our obedience more than any other ruler today.

In examining this text from Philippians, Sam notes how Paul, in the immediate context of the passage, is addressing a very concrete issue in the Philippian church. In fact, this so-called “Christ-hymn” (verses 6 - 11) is bracketed by an emphasis on obedience in the Philippian church; and at the very center of the Christ-hymn is Jesus' own obedience to the Father. The application for us today, then, is not to separate worship and obedience. Our obedience is not rooted in fear or guilt but in the willing and free submission of our will to King Jesus, in recognition of Jesus' loving sacrifice and His lordship over the world. Jesus wants to have authority over every aspect of our lives and desires us to live according to His will.

In conclusion, Jesus is a different kind of king—one who rules through love and self-giving rather than power and domination, yet he does deserve our obedience and loyalty. Jesus the king invites us to an integrated life of worship and obedience, where every action and decision is aligned with the will of the one who gave everything for the sake of humanity.

Key Takeaways:

- The narrative structure of the Bible, as a true story of God's interaction with the world, shapes the Christian understanding of the gospel. This holistic, biblical-theological approach to scripture provides a cohesive framework for understanding the whole plot of God's redemptive plan, from creation, to the establishment of the kingdom of Israel, to the eventual failure of the Kingdom of Israel, and then to its fulfillment in Jesus. [\[05:08\]](#)

- Jesus' kingship is fundamentally different from historical and contemporary notions of kingship, characterized by humility and servanthood rather than power and domination. This understanding challenges followers to reevaluate their own concepts of authority and leadership, aligning them with the sacrificial nature of Jesus' example. [\[18:53\]](#)

- The Christian life is marked by a fusion of worship and obedience, as demonstrated by the Apostle Paul's teachings to the Philippian church. This integration calls for a holistic approach to faith, where worship extends beyond praise and adoration in a worship context into every facet of daily living, reflecting a life transformed by Jesus' lordship. [29:27]

- The Christian call to obedience is an ongoing process of surrendering to Jesus' kingship in all areas of life. This surrender is a heartfelt response to Jesus' authority, acknowledging past resistance and embracing His way, with the assurance that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. [38:55]

Bible Reading:

Philippians 2:5-12 (NIV)

"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

2 Timothy 2:8 (NIV)

"Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel."

Discussion Questions

1. What does Philippians 2:6-7 reveal about Jesus' nature before His incarnation? How does Philippians 2:8 describe Jesus' attitude and actions during His time on earth?
2. In Philippians 2:9-11, what is the result of Jesus' obedience and humility, and how does it affect all of creation?
3. How does the description of Jesus in Philippians 2:6-11 contrast with the typical understanding of kingship in terms of power and authority?
4. What is the practical situation that Paul is addressing in Phil. 2:5 and 2:12?

Going Deeper

1. Reflect on an area of your life where you may be seeking control or recognition. How can you follow Jesus' example of humility and servanthood in this situation?
2. Identify a specific instance this week where you can live out a life of worship in obedience to Christ in a way that may go unnoticed by others but is significant in God's eyes.
3. Is there a specific area in your life where you have been resistant to God's guidance? Commit to one action you can take to surrender that area to Jesus' kingship.