

## Jesus is KING

The first King of Israel was reluctantly chosen when the cries of the Israelites for a king reached our Heavenly Father. God sent Samuel to anoint Saul as the first king. Saul had the same reaction that Gideon had when he was named as a judge over Israel and that was, "Why me? I'm from the least tribe of Israel." Never the less, God chose him and so he became, King of Israel. Saul lost favor in God's eyes because he didn't obey God. He went from "Why me?" to "It's all me." David was then raised up as king. Once again, God chose the youngest of a family as opposed to the oldest son of Jesse. David is probably the most famous king of the Bible and God did some amazing things through David. He was called a man after God's own heart. Yet, David had issues as well. There was the whole Bathsheba relationship and one of my favorite stories when he sinned by counting his fighting men in 2 Samuel 24. While David is very quotable and had a repentant heart when he did sin, the fact is that he still sinned. He wasn't perfect. Next up was Solomon. He was the son of David and you guessed it, Bathsheba. He was not the result of their adultery, but a son that came along after they were married. Solomon as a young king was given whatever he wanted from God. God told him to ask for whatever he wanted and Solomon asked for wisdom because he didn't know how to rule all of these people. God granted that desire and, because he didn't ask for it, all the riches you could imagine. Solomon deserted God's wisdom and relied on his own to expand the kingdom of Israel. In that expansion he came to tolerate foreign gods and built altars to them for his foreign wives. God, of course, wasn't happy about that.

The theme throughout the Old Testament is that God chose the improbable to lead His people. He chose the youngest of the weakest. Isaiah 53 describes Jesus this way, "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not." The Pharisees and Sadducees couldn't believe that their Savior would be born in a manger and grow up the son of a carpenter. When Jesus started teaching and leading and quoting scripture and calling Himself the Son of God, the so called teachers of the law didn't want to believe that this is who God would raise up as their redemptive Savior and instead considered him a blasphemer.

In our series, Jesus is...Prophet, Priest, King, we have learned that Jesus is a better Prophet because he carries the Word of the Lord and being God, is the Word of the Lord. Jesus is a better Priest because He is the ONE and only we can approach God through. He didn't come to offer a sacrifice on your behalf, He IS the sacrifice on your behalf. And now we come to the end and proclaim that Jesus is King. He was a better King because He withstood the temptations that Saul, David, and Solomon could not. He was a better King because He said, "Not my will, but yours be done" to the Heavenly Father. He was a better King because he put

a towel over his arm and washed his disciples' feet as opposed to expecting his subjects to bow at His every whim. He was a better King because He stretched out His arms and died for your sins, my sins, and the sins of the world. He was a much better King, however, because as I plagiarized a couple weeks ago, "There were footsteps going into the grave and there were footsteps coming out of the grave." No other king conquered death. No other king could pay the price. And no other king allows you and me access to our Heavenly Father. In John 14:6, Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, but through me." Happy Resurrection Sunday!

#### Group Discussion Questions:

1. What entitles someone to be the king of anything? How does one become king? Why do people of a certain country bow or recognize that person as king?
2. Read 1 Samuel 8:10-22. What were Samuel's warnings about what a king would do to the people? Why do you think the people still wanted a king? Why do you think God decided to grant them a king?
3. Read 1 Samuel 9:1-2,17-21. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. How would you describe the type of men God chose as king over Israel? How would you choose differently than God did? Why do you think He chose these particular men?
4. Read Isaiah 42:1-9. How would you describe Jesus as King?
5. Read John 14:6. What does this verse mean?
6. Glance through Matthew 8,9,20 and share what kind of King you would describe Jesus as.
7. Read Matthew 27:27-66. What kind of King was Jesus really?

#### Personal Reflection Questions:

1. What are some things you can do to follow Jesus' example and to obey His commands?
2. What one or two things have been the biggest struggles for you in following Jesus as King?
3. Read Matthew 27 over again. How would you describe what Jesus did for you? How would you describe Jesus as King?