

SUNDAY 28th JANUARY 2024 – The Prophet, Priest and King of Miracles.

Scripture: Mark 4:35–41; Mark 2:1–12; Mark 1:21–28

We need rulers and authorities on earth. Our experience tells us that.

More importantly, the Bible is clear on that. Romans 13 tells us that all governing authority on the earth is from God, and ultimately those authorities are under the authority of God and will answer to him.

Societies cannot survive without someone ruling them.

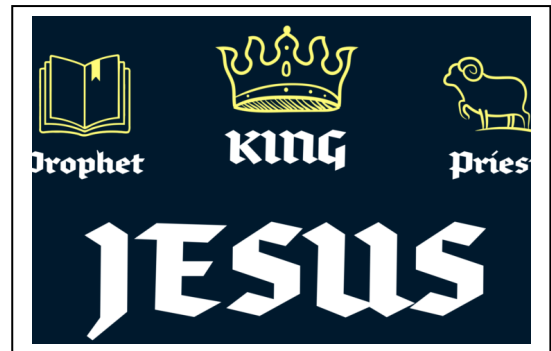
ANARCHY...meaning, NO ruler...never lasts long. The question always is, what kind of ruler will we have?

We want rulers who are kind, not cruel, righteous, not evil, Just and fair, not oppressive, bring peace, not war, bring order, not chaos. We want rulers who look out for the good of their people, not their own selfish ambition. We look around today, as we have looked around all our lives, and we admit, it's difficult to find someone close to that.

At the core of Christianity is the belief that God is a perfect, all-wise, all-good, holy ruler. And that God's Son, Jesus Christ, with the same attributes, is going to be established soon as the King of all kings. The Authority of all authorities.

He is the **Prophet**, not only with the message of God. He himself IS the message.

He is the **Priest**, the Great High Priest who mediates between us



and God. And he offered up his own life as a sacrifice to pay for our crimes against God.

He is the **King**. The Great King. The High King. The King of kings and Lord of lords.

Today, we're used to Rulers with titles like President and Prime Minister. The term in the Bible for the Supreme Ruler of a nation is almost always "KING." A king held legislative, executive, judiciary, economic, and military powers under his authority. He often wielded unlimited power over the life and properties of his subjects. There was no voting him into office. There was no voting him OUT of office. His rule which had to provide leadership in so many areas, could easily slip into tyranny.

Ask yourself, am I living day-by-day with a conscious awareness of the difference Jesus makes in my world, in my heart, in my situation? When was the last time I sat and took stock of the things happening around me, in my life, in my mind, in my family, at work, and gave serious thought to how God's gift of Jesus changes everything?

Mark's gospel was the first written and he wastes no time getting down to business. He has a single sentence introduction: "the good news of Jesus Christ - the message begins here."

An event has taken place that radically changes the way we look at and experience the world and he is so excited to tell us about it. The sooner we get the message, the better off we will be - God is here, and He is on our side. Mark hurriedly tells us what happened in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus is the only person who embodies all three characteristics – He had a phenomenal ability to speak: an incredible compassion for others and a powerful authority about Him.

We will read 3 stories from Mark's gospel to identify Jesus as a Prophet, a Priest and as a King.

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41(the storm)

We see here that Jesus wanted to go to the other side of the lake. He was asleep and a huge storm began. The disciples were terrified that they would all drown, so they woke Jesus up.

Jesus spoke to the wind, commanded peace, and told it to be still. He then challenged His disciples for their fear and lack of faith. You can imagine the disciples being amazed at the power of Jesus. Many **prophets** had come before Him, but none came with powerful words that could even make the wind obey.

How do you respond to Jesus' words? When you hear a sermon of spend time personally in God's word, do you obey?

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12 (The Paraplegic)

Jesus drew crowds wherever He went. Four men brought their friend, who was paralysed, to be healed by Jesus. But they couldn't get in the door, so they removed part of the roof and lowered him down.

Jesus forgave the man of his sins. He explained that forgiving someone of their sins is a far greater act than healing them of paralysis. Many **priests** had come before Him, but none came with the perfect compassion, the immaculate love and the divine ability to forgive sins like Jesus. He looks on sinners with eyes of

mercy and grants them His great grace. The injection of forgiveness into this story shows us something about the rule of God in Christ. Forgiveness penetrates deep into our character. And when it gets there, it heals, restores, and redeems.

How do you respond to Jesus' love? When you experience His mercy and understand His forgiveness, does it compel you to extend mercy and forgiveness to others?

Scripture: Mark 1:21-28 (the demon possessed)

While Jesus taught in the synagogue, he walked a demon-possessed man, screaming questions at Him. Jesus simply told the demon to be quiet and leave the man's body. This demon that had overpowered the man, left his body because Jesus had far greater authority. Jesus performed this miracle as **King**. Many kings had come before Him, but none came with His divine power and authority.

Christ as our King is concerned with our whole lives. This goes beyond what we normally experience. We treat symptoms, God heals diseases. We analyse effects, God deals with the cause. We live on the surface of life; God plunges to its depths.

How do you respond to Jesus' authority? Do you worship Him as you witness His power? Do you obey Him as you submit to His authority? Do you operate in His power by resisting temptation, repenting of sin, and trusting in the gospel?

Conclusion: Through our readings from Mark, we see Jesus as prophet, priest, and king. Jesus as Prophet taught truth throughout His life.

Jesus as Priest extended mercy by dying on the cross for our sin.

Jesus as King rose to life out of His powerful authority over death, sin, and the grave.

He is our teacher, our lover, and our ruler.

Our response to the gospel is to hear the Word of our Great Prophet, receive the compassion of our Great Priest and live faithfully for our Great King.

As we respond to God, this perspective of the gospel also changes how we respond to others. What should we do when something tragic happens in the lives of those around us?

Because Jesus is Prophet, we proclaim to them the promises in God's Word.

Because Jesus is Priest, we personally minister to those who hurt and provide for their needs, however we can.

Because Jesus is King, we show them the powerful authority, Jesus has over their life and their need to worship Him.

That is when we can watch God do miracles by creating new life by grace through faith.