



SOJOURNER PSALMS

“The King”
Psalm 110
April 14, 2019

1. Sunday Summary: This morning we continued our sermon series for Lent that we’re calling *Sojourner Psalms*. This morning we examined Psalm 110, which is the most quoted Old Testament passage in the whole New Testament. This Psalm is often categorized as a “Royal Psalm, and if we look closely, we’ll see that it’s all about what the King should be/will be like. It outlines a King who is...

- a) Human and yet Divine – Jesus quotes this Psalm in Matthew 22, and he uses it to get in the faces of the Pharisees about what the hoped for Messiah would be like. He showed them he would be both Human AND Divine. Jesus blew up their understanding of who the Messiah is, even as he begins to press upon them that he is the Messiah. We, like the Pharisees often try to put Jesus in a box, at times favouring different aspects of his Messiahship. Sometimes we see him primarily as divine; at other times as human. But, Jesus won’t fit neatly into any of the boxes we make for him.
- b) Strong and yet Weak – Jesus was not only a King, but he was also a priest (Psalm 110:4). This meant that not only does he rule and reign, but he also inhabits the sympathetic office of Priest, where he intercedes for, atones for, and helps people. These offices were always distinct in OT Israel, but in Jesus they come together perfectly. And so, in Jesus absolute power, and sweetness and tenderness come together.
- c) Able to deliver and transform – Because Jesus so perfectly inhabits and brings together these offices he is able to deliver us and transform us. And he calls us to follow him and inhabit these offices too, so that we can minister to the world. In fact, we as the church, are the strategy he uses to deliver and transform the world.

2. Connecting Questions: (Interactive, life sharing, thought & feeling type stuff)

- It’s great to know that Jesus is like us. But, sometimes that means we too narrowly try to define who he is and what he’s like. How do you (or how have you) put Jesus in a box? How you do try to make Jesus fit your agenda? Or how do you distort his message so that it fits your predilections and ways of seeing the world?
- What aspect of Jesus’ character are you most drawn to? Do you like a strong Jesus? A tender Jesus? What aspect of his character do you think you NEED the most today?
- We’re called to be a “Royal Priesthood” in 1 Peter 2:9, just as Jesus was both a King and Priest. What aspect of that call do find more appealing (King or Priest)? Talk about a time you leaned into your call to be a King (Kings were leaders, judges, people who called people back to the truth)? How about a Priest (the priests had a sympathetic office, where they cared for the poor, offered sacrifices on behalf of others, interceded for others)?

- What insights from today's message were most helpful for you?

3. Truth Questions: (What does the Bible say?)

- Think together about some other passages that deal with the topic of what the Messiah (God's Chosen King) is supposed to be like. Can you think of any? What might they add to the conversation?
- Read 1 Peter 2:9-12 together. What's the purpose of being a "royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God" according to this passage? Why is it important to know that we are a royal priesthood (Kings and Priests) if that's our calling? What does being a holy nation add? How about a people "chosen by God?"

4. Formation Questions: (Taking it further, How does the Truth change the way I live?)

- What concrete steps can you make to sink the gospel truth that we dealt with today deeper into your life throughout this week? What will you do about the message you heard today?
- What will you do to lean into your call to be a King and a Priest in the world this week? How will you remind yourself this week that this is your call?
- How will you use today's learning to help you to live out your call to living a holy life this week?

5. Resources for Further Study:

1. Peterson, Eugene. *Answering God: The Psalms As Tools For Prayer*. (Harper One: New York, NY. 1989).
2. Brueggemann, Walter. *The Psalms and the Life of Faith*. (Fortress Press: Minneapolis, MN. 1995).

