

Who Is This King of Glory?

Isaiah 40:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

In this advent season as we have learned that we are to anticipate the coming of the Messiah, the Christ, the anointed of God. Last week I talked about the importance of being prepared to meet the king, and that the preparation helps us to be ready to do the work of the Messiah. While we do that work, which is summed up in the church's mission statement, we also meet the Messiah. So just what is the work of the Messiah after all if we know what work he will be doing, then we will

know who he is? What is he going to do that we should be doing? Isaiah 40: 9 – 10 tells us Isa 40:9 – 10

“⁹ You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. (Isa 40:9-10

NIV).” **And Isaiah 11: 1 – 5** ¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD--

³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

(Isa 11:1-5 NIV)

So now I ask you are we the sort of people who delight in the fear of the Lord? Fear in this case is defined as a healthy respect directed toward God. Not a terrible paralyzing feeling

of dread but rather a sense of reverence. Do we have reverence for God? Are we able to judge not by what we see or hear but with righteousness? Have we given justice to the needy and the poor? Are we able to strike the earth with the rod of our mouth and slay the wicked with our breath? These are the things that the Bible says will be the work of the Messiah this work will define who the Messiah is, so it follows that if we have the spirit of God in our hearts, then these are the things that we should be doing too.

Now you might be saying to yourself, well preacher that's just Old Testament babble. We are a New Testament church, preach to us from the New Testament. Okay for you in Romans 15: 4 Paul says and I quote, "for everything that was written in the past was written to teach us so that through endurance and the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." He also adds 5-7 "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as

you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." (NIV) So according to Paul, we are to be accepting of one another, and have a spirit of unity so that we can give glory to God. While use all scripture as a learning tool.

I think sometimes that the teachers of the law in the time of Jesus didn't recognize him because they were looking for a super hero. In Psalms 24, we see that super hero image in the last few verses. Ps 24:7-10 "Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty-- he is the King of glory. Selah (NIV)

Even John the Baptist prophesied that the Christ would be this great avenging power that would right wrongs and send the wicked into burning fire. Matt 3:10-12

“The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” (NIV) With this image of the Messiah in mind, it’s no wonder that he was surprised when Jesus came to him to be baptized.

And in today’s scripture lesson John talks about how Jesus will be a powerful preacher baptizing people with the Holy Spirit. There can be no doubt that the Messiah has come. Every year we hear the story of the

humble birth of our savior born in a manger, no place fit for a king. Because of this seemingly unimportant birth, the Pharisees and Scribes and rulers missed all the other signs that Jesus fulfilled with his birth. Born of a virgin; a descendant of Jesse, a son of David, the Lion of Judah. Jesus was all these things too. And the rest, the super hero stuff is reserved for a time in the future when he will come again. This is the time that we are to be ready for, because we don’t know when it’s going to be. I saw a bumper sticker on a van parked in front of the parsonage last year, it said “Many people who are waiting until the 11th hour to get saved, die at 10:30.”

Do you believe that all things are possible for God? If the answer is yes, then you have to believe that God will be able to help you do all of the work He wants you to do. Even the work of striking the earth with the rod of your mouth, and slaying the wicked with your breath. (I know some of you probably think your spouses could do that in the morning

right?) It's not up to us to figure out how, it's up to us to believe that we can do and be willing to do whatever God shows us to do. Jesus himself has already prayed for us to have the spirit to help us do his work. John 17 ²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

(Joh 17:20-21 NIV)

Jesus wants us to have no doubt who he is, so that we will believe that he has come into the world. He is the king of Glory who has come and will come again, and we say amen, Come Lord Jesus.