

Small Groups

Discussion Questions for November 22, 2015 – The Solemnity Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

We're almost there! This is the Sunday that will lead us into our joyous anticipation of Christ's coming to save us all. In the first reading, we read of "the Son of Man", a term used by Jews to refer to the awaited Messiah. But the Jews were not expecting Jesus, the meek, humble servant. They thought their Messiah (Anointed One) would be a King to conquer their enemies just like conquering monarchs had done through the centuries. Some have surmised that this was a reason that Judas turned on Our Lord – Judas thought that Jesus should have been more like the royalty of their age, not like the kind, generous prophet that Jesus displayed. Jesus didn't gather the rich and powerful around him, as kings did. Jesus did not praise the shrewd and successful in order to gain protection for themselves and their court. Jesus did not scorn, ridicule and ignore the poor and widowed. He was doing the exact opposite of what some in his time thought the Messiah should do and be. Thank God he was who he was. He is God who loved us enough to humble himself to our level in order to raise us to his. Thank God we have a God who wants to personally involve himself in our lives. Thank Jesus, our God!

Discussion Questions

1. In addition to the examples given above, how does Jesus's kingship differ from that of historical kings as well as today's rulers and heads of state?
2. Jesus is King of Kings, all other powers and dominions are subject to Him, and yet, do you ever have difficulty, in your daily travels, of putting your faith in Him ahead of the temporal powers, institutions, and other allegiances, for example: Country, State, City, College, Sports Team, Ethnic Tribe, Employer, Friends, Family? Explain when you might choose one over the other.
3. Why does Jesus tell Pilate, "My kingdom does not belong to this world."?
4. Use this week to think about what kind of prayer you could focus on in preparation for Advent. Discuss what customs you may have for Advent. Do you do the candles? What else?

Closing Prayer

God, our Father, we ask that you work in us this week to give us the spirit of anticipation and wonder at your Son's incarnation. God, the Son, enliven in us a love and trust in your saving mission and make us true followers of you in love and spirit. Let us not think that knowledge of you is enough. We want to love like you love, give like you give, forgive like you forgive, teach like you teach, mentor like you mentor, accompany like you accompany. We want to do all things for, in and by your holy love. God, the Spirit, open our heart to the truth and wisdom of the healing message of Christ. Give us your spirit of openness and compassion for all of your children, especially those who hate us, malign us, insult us, cheat us, hurt us, gossip behind our backs, or in any way make us feel less than we are in your eyes. Let us love them and forgive them every moment and with every breath. We know that you know that we are incapable of accomplishing any of this without your help. So we beg for your help and guidance in this and in everything we do. We ask all of this through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever, amen.