



TASTE Reflection Questions

November 7, 2024

Christ Our King

Kristen Fisher

*And remember, I am with you always,
to the end of the age. ~ Matthew 28:20*



1. What did you find most interesting about this talk? For example, Jesus' Kingship vs. earthly kings (See back)

2. Kristen shared that during the Election between George W Bush and Al Gore, she was very stressed because she was perceiving that the balance of the country was in the hands of the politicians. However, the question Gertrude asked her, "**IS JESUS KING OR IS HE NOT?**" brought her back to the truth that Jesus is the King of Kings, and the country is in His hands and control.
 - How does that make you feel that Jesus is King, even during election time?
 - Is there an issue or occasion coming up for which you may need to remember this?

3. During Q&A, Kristen gave an explanation of how God increased her desire to know Jesus (the King of Kings) more deeply in a "**PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP**" through a Christian summer camp. For the first time, she heard people talking about Jesus as if they knew Him personally and that He was actually doing things in their real life. She wanted the Joy the camp counselors had and **intentionally** invited Jesus into her heart. At that very moment, she felt the love of Jesus like never before, and in a way never thought possible.
 - Have you ever met anyone that displayed God's Joy and talked about their relationship with Jesus? Explain.
 - Have you ever had a desire to experience a personal relationship with Jesus? Explain.
 - Have you "**intentionally**" invited Jesus into your heart? If so, how did you feel afterward?
 - How can you help others experience the Love and Joy of Christ?

4. During Jesus' crucifixion and suffering He, the King, takes the place of the traitor because the traitor is the one who should die. The King takes the place of the one who has betrayed him, so that the traitor might take the place of the King. During this, He is thinking of YOU in love and willingly trades spots to be punished for what you and I have done.
 - How does this GREAT sacrifice of suffering, punishment, and death Jesus did for YOU make you feel?
 - What can you do in return for His sacrifice for YOU?
 - How can understanding this encourage you to tell family, friends, and acquaintances about the LOVE Jesus has for them?

5. Kristen said: A) every Kingdom on Earth has walls, but the kingdom of God has **NO WALLS**, B) God's kingdom is made manifest in the Catholic Church instituted by Jesus & C) "The kingdom is you and me when we allow Jesus to sit on the throne of our hearts"
 - What does that last statement mean to you?
 - How do you feel about our King who "stands at the door and knocks" at the door of His own Palace?
 - How can we better celebrate the **FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING** (Nov 24th) knowing that we have a truly unique King — one who knows us, loves us, sees us, and who wants to be with us in eternity.

EARTHLY KINGS	CHRIST THE KING <i>(Italicized text was augmented from this LINK)</i>
• They live remotely from their subjects • They do not mingle with them except on rare occasions. • They have WALLS and guards to protect themselves from their people.	• He DWELLS with us and in us! Moreover, He wants to be one of us! He is totally accessible. While Jesus walked this earth, we know "the word became flesh and dwelt among us." Even today, He gives us His very Body and Blood in the Eucharist and sits in the Tabernacle of our churches. • The Kingdom of God has NO WALLS or guards. The kingdom is you and me when we allow Jesus to sit on the throne of our hearts. We have a King "who stands at the door and knocks" on the door of his own Palace asking us to let Him in..
• They have POWER and lord it over others.	• While He has power, He does not lord it over others, but rather acts as a SERVANT to all. • <i>When James and John come to Jesus seeking the first place in his kingdom (at His right and his left hand), Jesus is upset. He not only rebuked them, but He called all the disciples together and said to them: "Look, among the Gentiles, those who are not part of God's chosen people, those that in power lord it over others; however, among you, it cannot be that way. The one who is to lead must be the servant, the slave of all."</i> • <i>Jesus demonstrated this dramatically at the Last Supper, when He got down and knelt in front of each disciple and washed his or her feet? He took the role of a slave, a servant. He said, "As I have done to you, you must do to others. You must be servants."</i>
• Everything belongs to the King; Everything belongs to the state. • They have WEALTH and lord it over others. They have everything they need. • They draw money from the poor and build up their own wealth so they can always do whatever they want with the money they obtain.	• While everything belongs to Him, He is GENEROUS and simply asks us to use all of it for the good of the Kingdom. He wants us to remember that everything we have is a GIFT & it is on LOAN & it is meant to be SHARED. Everything is to be used at His service for our own good and that of others. • <i>We see this play out in the story of the young man who comes to Jesus and says, "What must I do to gain everlasting life?" When Jesus says, "Keep the commandment" The young man replies "I've done that from my youth; my early years." Then Jesus looks on him and says with love, "If you want to truly be perfect to follow me now, go sell everything you have. Give it to the poor then come and follow me. Jesus was saying don't depend on your wealth and riches any longer, follow me, and live a life of simplicity, of poverty, having what you need, but not more than you need."</i>
• They typically PROTECT & RESCUE their people for SELFISH REASONS to keep them in power and in wealth.	• He PROTECTS & RESCUES us out of LOVE and without any selfish motive. • He protects and rescues us at His own peril.
• They typically use FORCE, WARS, and KILLING to protect the kingdom from external threats – conquering through VIOLENCE.	• Our Lord does not conquer through violence or force; He conquers through LOVE & INVITATION. He wants us to trust that He will provide for us as a good King does what we need. • <i>Jesus rejected violence. Even in the garden, when His life is at risk since they were coming to take him prisoner, to torture him, put him to death, Jesus rejected violence. One of His disciples wanted to defend Him and prevent this and thus drew his sword and sliced the ear off the high priest's servant. Jesus basically said, "Put away your sword; don't use violence. Those who live by the sword die by the sword." Violence brings violence -- always greater violence -- and so instead of the violence, Jesus heals the person whose ear has been severed. He reaches out in love.</i> • <i>Jesus demonstrated this again when He chose the way of suffering and death, showing forth love for those who were doing this to him. He was willing to suffer rather than inflict suffering; willing to be killed rather than kill, because he knew that the way of active love was the only way to transform our world into the reign of God.</i>
• They CONTROL their people by effectively dealing with TRAITORS (citizens who go against the king).	• While it is His right and His prerogative, He DOES NOT CONTROL us because He wants us to love Him and thus He gives His life so that we might choose to love Him.. He gives us FREE WILL knowing full well that we might use the very gift he gave us to do something other than love. • Even when we become a traitor because of our sins, Jesus still loves us and protects the kingdom by dying for the traitors. In fact, instead of seeing us as in league with the enemy He sees us as those who need to be rescued from the enemy. • Our King would take the place of a traitor (who should die), taking the place of those who betray Him so that the traitor might take the place of the King! Yes, He would trade places! • While He suffered immensely, He still loved us and was thinking of each of us. He forgives and He offers mercy and He offers eternal life in heaven as He invites us to experience his kingship.
• They are TRANSACTIONAL and their people respond similarly.	• Jesus is not transactional. Rather, He is all about LOVE. He wants us to avoid being tempted to be transactional with Him. He wants us to trust Him when He takes away because there is more to come. He wants us to hold it all loosely so that when he removes something from our hands, our heart, or our life, we can trust that there is more to come, and it might not be coming in this life because that is transactional.
• They have a LIMITED REIGN. • They can be DETHRONED.	• His Kingdom will be FOREVER and will never be defeated. • We have a king who knows us, loves us, sees us, and who wants to be with us in ETERNITY.