

### **Some Basic Theology!**

*Jeremiah 23<sup>1-6</sup>; Psalm 46; Colossians 1<sup>11-20</sup>; Luke 23<sup>33-43</sup>*

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.  
[Colossians 1<sup>15</sup>]*

*Sing with me: Jesus we are here, Jesus we are here, Jesus we are here, we are here for you!*

This Feast of Christ the King gives us a chance to refocus our thinking and our believing where it should be: how easily we get distracted by so many things. Today we need to hear again that Christ is our King and that we are his subjects.

Jesus is no Prince Andrew with potentially flawed judgement and questionable friends (unless you and I are included, perhaps) - there is no question of Jesus morals and motivation.

Neither is Jesus a Constitutional Monarch who has to do what he is told however misguided the advice, but an absolute monarch who rules all creation absolutely.

Neither is Jesus an inaccessible monarch protected by layers of administration and security - he is only a prayer away.

Paul, in his magisterial letter to the Colossians, gives a great summary to assist our thinking and believing about Christ the King:

#### ✠ **He is before all things and in him all things hold together**

As we approach Event and Christmass we remind ourselves of the need and power of the Incarnation: generations failed to live in a way that accorded with the makers manual and so a new approach had to be taken - we had to be **rescued** by the one in whom **all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell**.

How humbling it is to realise that the maker of the universe intervenes to **redeem** us from the individual and corporate mess we make of living. **The blood of the cross** shows that the self-centred self-absorbed motivation that led to sin, this was what **God was pleased to reconcile to himself**:

#### ✠ **He is the head of the body, the Church**

The Church isn't perfect - it has been beset with scandals, with embarrassments, with greed, pride, indifference and hypocrisy. It is like any human institution - that is why Jeremiah says of the spiritual leaders in 6<sup>th</sup> century BC Israel, **woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture**.

Jesus is the one of whom it was said, **I will raise up for David a righteous Branch** who will bring salvation and safety.

The Church only makes sense, only functions correctly, when Jesus is its head and we do what he says: live in love; live as forgiven people; live as those concerned for peace and justice for all.

#### ✠ **He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have the first place in everything**

The Gospel has the record of the two responses to Jesus - the thief who mocked and the thief who had faith. We make our choice by our response to Jesus - does he have first place and we respond in humble faith, or do we retain first place in our own lives. Only one response has the promise, **truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise**.

Hope in life and hope through into the life that is to come - guaranteed by Jesus' own resurrection: Jesus is the new beginning!

The result is that **God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross**. Christ the King humbles himself to save us - that is awesome!

*Sing with me: Jesus we are here, Jesus we are here, Jesus we are here, we are here for you!*