

October 8, 2023
LWML Sunday
Pastor Matt Duerr

The King is Coming-Part III

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father, and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen. Well, it's here! It's finally LWML Sunday and we have that theme that we've been working on the last two Sundays; "The King is Coming." But first, just a little bit of a back track, what exactly is LWML? It's the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, and I emphasize missionary. "The King is Coming," is a very worthy theme and appropriate for an organization, a ministry like the LWML.

In our first week, we saw how the king is coming relates to us being a royal priesthood. We are a royal priesthood in service of the King and our job is to preserve knowledge and to share the knowledge of the truth, of the Bible, because there is going to be a battle within the Church. And the answer is always God's Word.

Then last week, we read about how Paul wrote to Timothy and warned him that the time is coming when people would not put up with sound doctrine or sound teaching. Instead, they would surround themselves with a great number of experts or teachers who would say what their ears want to hear. Again, turning away from the Bible and the truth of God's Word. And it's happening within the Church.

As we bring this study to a close, we again look at who the King is from Psalm 24. Who is the King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle. But now we must address the question; why is He coming? Well, He's coming to save what He created and what He loves. And yet He's coming to fulfill His own Word because that's who God is. He is the trustworthy One, and He is the One who has given us prophecy and prophetic imagery. The prophecy begins right there in Genesis 3, where he promises that Satan's head would be crushed through the seed of the woman through the coming Messiah.

We see the prophecy laid out through the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Jesse, David, Joseph. We see the prophecy of the virgin giving birth prophesied by Isaiah. We see Jesus performing miracles just as the prophets said the Messiah would. We see Him speaking in parables, just as the prophet said He would. And then perhaps the most powerful, are what we call the three-day prophecies. Those are the ones that involve His being betrayed by a friend, and betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, and then thirty pieces of silver being thrown on the floor in the temple. Of Jesus being stricken, smitten, and afflicted. Of Him being crucified even before crucifixion was invented. Jesus came to fulfill all of those prophecies.

And then there's prophetic imagery. We see it when King David brought the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem. To him, it was God's redemptive glory coming to his people, residing with his people. Again, the atoning sacrifices could take place in Jerusalem as they were supposed to take place. Worship could take place because God was back. And yet think about that, that was just an image of what was to come. Jesus is the ultimate redemptive glory of God. He is the final atoning sacrifice. As the author to the Hebrews writes in Hebrews 9:26 "That Christ died once for all." No longer was there a need for the sacrifice of goats or lambs or bulls. The son of God was sacrificed once for all. Christ, truly Emmanuel, God with us; and He came to get us, to redeem us. Zion which means, owned by God. And as we mentioned last week, we truly are owned by God. Because He created us, and He has redeemed us so both the name Emmanuel and Zion are all a part of this redemptive plan of God's glory.

But how does the King of Glory come? When you consider God, that's a mighty big question and it has multiple answers because our God is intent on our salvation. Yes, He comes to us, as we will soon celebrate in a couple of months, as the babe in Bethlehem. But He also comes to us through His word. And with the power of the Holy Spirit, we read that faith comes. Faith comes through the power of the Holy Spirit. Faith comes by hearing God's Word. And with that faith we then hear Jesus saying, "I will be with you always, even to the very end of the age."

So, He comes to us through His word, and through faith, but that faith then opens up a whole new level. He comes to us through Holy Communion. He comes to us through the waters of baptism. He comes through us as we share God's Word and shine His glory in a sin marred world. And He will come to us in His second coming on the final day.

Jesus, the King of glory, He's coming all the time and He's coming one big final time. But why is He coming? Well, we already saw He's coming to save that which He loves, and we saw that He's come to fulfill the prophecies and prophetic imagery. Pastor Matt, why are you rewinding? Because I left out the politically incorrect reason. The one that people *don't* like, and that's because mankind needs to be rescued from itself. You see, we have chosen sin, and as a result we live in a sin marred world. It is a world of brokenness. Relationships are broken. We see that especially true in the area of marriage and family. When we look at the crime rates and everything that's out there that just looks so bad today, you don't hear many people discussing this. But it's about 90% of the crimes are committed by individuals who were brought up in broken families; and no one wants to address that. It's politically incorrect, but it's a part of living in a sin marred world. The brokenness of marriage of family and of relationships with friends.

And yet as we get older, we understand brokenness even more because our very bodies start to break down. I will be the first to say from a bodily standpoint, getting older stinks! And yet, we see the brokenness even in what we make. We make things, we're proud of the things we make, and then they break down. That's all because we live in a sin marred world of brokenness. It is a world of destruction, much of it man made. When we look at man's warfare, and man's propensity to riot, and break and tear things apart. But it's also nature, a world groaning under the effects of sin.

As Saint Paul writes 8:22 and 23, and so we see diseases just with the letter C. We can go from cancer to COVID, and that boy covers a whole lot, doesn't it? We live in a sin marred world that's filled with death and we try to beat it. But a week and a half ago, in Popular Science Magazine, the headline story for the magazine was "Immortality Cannot

be Attained.” It just looked at the science of it and said, ‘we are living in a world where things just go downhill, no matter what we do. Even our very genes begin to break down.

And one more little thing about this sin marred world, we tend to make it worse. Remember God's coming to save us from ourselves. We make it even worse through selfish ambition. Another way of saying that is success at expense. We want to succeed. Who cares who gets mowed over in the process? We make it worse through hatred of others. A lot of that in the news nowadays with racism, sexism, might I add, they don't talk about it too much, but the area of politics has become an area of hatred. It becomes worse because of self-created greed. Last week we heard, “For the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil.” Well, you can take it one step further. With that money, we buy possessions, and the love of possessions is a root also of all sorts of evil.

All of this is a result of the sinful nature that we have chosen. How bad is it really? Well let's take a look back in the Bible to see how bad it can get and Its effect on God. If we go to Romans 6 verse 6; this is the chapter right before Noah's flood, this is what Moses records. And the LORD regretted that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him to the heart. Why? Because as a righteous God, He had to hold the people, His creation, accountable. And since the wages of sin is death, and they had gone so far in embracing that sin, that they bragged about killing people. As a righteous God, He had no choice but to hold him accountable and bring the flood. Then you might say, ‘yeah but Pastor Matt, God regretted that? Isn't He omniscient, didn't He know what was going to happen? Sure, He did.

Well, let me put it into maybe our kind of a mindset or thinking. Which parent among you enjoyed or enjoys disciplining your children or grandchildren? I know I never looked forward to it. And when the grandkids come now, I hate to say the word no, or stop it, that's not right, that's not acceptable. I regret having to say that, but I know it's right and I will do it anyway. And speaking of knowing its right and doing it anyway, what's the second part of God's regret, His grief? Well, He shows that He holds us accountable through the flood. And we know He was

going to hold us accountable on the final day, judgment day. But in between there's this thing the cross. It grieved God that He would have to send His Son to pay the price of our sin.

When we go to 2nd Corinthians 5:19 to 21, our New Testament reading this morning, Paul lays it out pretty clearly for the people of Corinth and for us. He makes it clear God reconciled the world to Himself. Reconcile means to bring into account, or to bring into order or agreement. God reconciled the world to Himself. How? He made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin, to be sin (He took your sin, took my sin, He became our sin) for us. And He took it to the cross, so that; as Saint Paul says, that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. Jesus gives us His righteousness after paying the price of our sin. Saint Paul does not end there, and this is why we have LWML Sunday. Entrusting to us *the*, notice it's singular, it's not "a". It is *the* message of reconciliation, the message. That God has done this for us, though it grieves Him because His son had to die. He has made us one with Him and now, I quote, "we are ambassadors of Christ," God making His appeal through us. This is the gospel message we are called to share!

I'm going to go back now three weeks to pastor Tim's sermon which fits right in. The sermon titled, Yes, but..." And his thing was, no buts. We are not to say, "I'm no good at it, but I don't know the words to say, but, but, but." All of those can be corrected, number one by opening God's Word. Two, by trusting Him, trusting what He can do.

That's why He said to His disciples in our gospel this morning. 'Go back to Jerusalem, wait there until you are clothed with power from on high'. In Acts 1:8 we read, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the very ends of the earth." We can't, He can, and He has made us ambassadors for Christ, and He has called us to do this.

The gospel message is our only hope, and it is what God has entrusted to us. And it is what the LWML was established to do; to be ambassadors for Christ, to be missionaries, in league with each other in spreading that gospel to the world. And to be very honest, it should be,

redeem women and children should be all about. May we go forth from this place, realize that male or female, young or old, we are all reconciled, we are all redeemed, we are all called, we are all ambassadors for Christ. In our Saviors' Name, Amen.