

Msgr. Bill's Weekly Letter...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Long live the King!

Our first reading today honors King David, a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). David did not give up when he sinned. He came back to God and returned to a life of virtue. He was not a perfect king but he retained a heart desirous of God.

St. Paul's letter to the Colossians paints a picture of the cosmic king — one who has delivered us from darkness, who forgives our sins, the first born of all creation, the image of the invisible God, holding all together, head of the body of the Church, the beginning of all and the end of all, (cf. 1 Col. 15:12-20).



Our Gospel reading today shows us true kingly power. Looking at the cast of characters in the episode, gives us great insight to true power. We all know who is speaking out of fear and anger — we hear desperation, cowardliness, weakness, etc. They may sound powerful but their self-centeredness prevents them from owning their very self. In their self-centeredness they lose their identity.

Jesus and the repentant thief focus on the other and in doing so find their true self. Jesus of course already knew himself as the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, he knew he is the Son of God who come as the Savior. The repentant thief found himself in abandonment to the truest of all kings.

We know where the truest power rests, not just in Jesus, but in our self as well. We can walk in the power of the Spirit which always leads to generosity, forgiveness, and magnanimity. Deep inside the human person is a place that knows this but does not easily rise to the surface. The greatest obstacle is the fear that we might just reach that spot and then must follow its very goodness.

The Collect for today's Holy Mass asks God to set us free from slavery that we render service to the King of kings. Let our service mirror the service of LOVE who lived a disinterested life in self so he would live a life for others. LOVE's life was a life we try to imitate, so that, like the repentant thief we too might be with him in paradise at the moment of our death.

Jesus' majesty is not so much in his power or majesty, rather in being always ready to forgive, to be generous, kind, good, persevering, surrendering to our Father's love. Let us pray for the grace to imitate the heart of Christ the King.

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Msgr. Bill