

Matthew 1:1, 6, 17

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

“Jesus is the Son of *David*”

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Vicar Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano

Grace, Mercy, and Peace are yours from God our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:**

**[*The Son of David*]**

Since the dawn of time, about 60 billion people have walked on Planet Earth. Of those 60 billion people, only a handful have made any real, lasting impression. In that handful of people, one stands far above all others.

His name is Jesus.

Jesus never wrote a book, and yet millions of books have been written about him. Jesus never painted a picture, and yet the world’s greatest art has Jesus as its source for inspiration. Jesus never raised an army and yet millions of his followers have fought and died for him. Jesus never traveled very far from his birthplace, and yet his testimony has gone around the world. Jesus only had a handful of followers, and yet today over 30 percent of the world’s population follows him.

To ignore Jesus is disastrous. To reject Jesus is fatal. But to know Jesus is to love him; to love him is to trust him; to trust Jesus is to be radically, dramatically, and eternally changed by him. The most important question we can ever ask is

*“Who is Jesus?”*

That’s what Matthew wants us to know! It’s why he places the genealogy of Jesus at the beginning of his gospel. He wants you and me to know who Jesus is.

Today we begin with this truth, *Jesus is the Son of David*. Jesus is the son of David who is a king. This makes Jesus royalty; and we confess that Jesus is *the King*! We don’t get him confused with any politicians or worldly rulers. Jesus as King is quite different.

[*The Promised One*]

When we look at Jesus, he's a completely different kind of leader and king. **Jesus is the promised King.**

This is what Christ means.

It isn't Jesus's last name, but rather his title. It means

**“Messiah”,**

**“Anointed One.”**

The Old Testament foretells of a coming Messiah, a King who would be anointed with the Holy Spirit to accomplish the mission of God. The Messiah would come from the line of David. He would be born in David's city and sit on David's throne.

Matthew is practically shouting, “It's HIM! Jesus the Son of David *is* the Christ, the Messiah!”

When Matthew writes his gospel, Israel had been without a true king for hundreds of years. Now, Matthew declares, “The King has come, and his name is Jesus.”

[*King of Compassion*]

Jesus was more than just the Promised King. Jesus is also **the Compassionate King**. Jesus doesn't come to drive out Israel's enemies. He comes to bring in the outcasts. It's evident in Matthew's genealogy. In the ancient world, people traced their ancestry through the father. It comes as no surprise that Matthew's genealogy is predominately male. But it isn't exclusively male!

Matthew mentions four women, did you catch them?

Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and then Bathsheba.

All the women here are outsiders to Israel. Tamar was a Canaanite like Rahab.

Ruth was a Moabite and Bathsheba was a Hittite.

The Jews expected a Messiah who would drive out their oppressors and crush the nations to establish God's rule. But Jesus didn't come to judge the nations at his first coming. He comes to welcome them in, to show hospitality. Jesus brings the outcasts home to God and he removes their shame.

**[*God of the outcasts*]**

This is a preview of the rest of Matthew's Gospel. Who does Jesus show hospitality to? Who does Jesus want you and I to show hospitality to? Outcasts. Jesus gets close to the diseased, to people who were quarantined from society. And Jesus touches them. He gets close enough to contract their diseases. Sometimes, you and I push people away because of the sin in our lives. This pushing away and being pushed forces people into solitary lives, lives of being outcasts. And often, those wounds are deepened by the shame others inflict upon us.

Jesus welcomes and heals people who carry these wounds. Which includes all of us. The ugly shame. The haunting shame. Jesus not only takes away our guilt, sin done *by* us. Jesus also takes away the shame, sin done to us. We don't have to drink our shame away. Work our shame away. Explain our shame away, eat our shame away, cry our shame away, or bury our shame away. Jesus isn't a King who sits on his throne and says, "Try harder." Jesus is a King who descends from his throne, filled with compassion. Jesus identifies with us in the pit of shame. At our darkest point—when we feel the ugliest, most despairing—Jesus says, "I love you!" What other people said and thought and did to us doesn't define us. You and I don't have to live in shame. We aren't worthless. We aren't damaged goods. You and I are clean. You and I are whole. You and I are his. There's a Messiah. Jesus *is* the compassionate King.

[*The King is risen*]

Jesus is also **the Rejected King**. To the Jewish elites of his day, Jesus was the wrong kind of king. He lived in the wrong place, associated with the wrong people, preached the wrong message, appointed the wrong leaders, carried out the wrong mission, and offered the wrong redemption. Every time Jesus showed hospitality to the outcasts, the rulers would scoff and mock him. Because this kind of hospitality wasn't just foreign, it was wrong.

The whole thing came to a head on the cross. Matthew writes, "Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS" (Mt 27:37). Risen on the third day Jesus says this in Matthew 28:18, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Jesus is the King of the outcasts as well.

That's what we would expect of a King—to have *all* authority. As our King Jesus makes demands of us. After all, Jesus, the King, has all authority in heaven and on earth. But before Jesus makes any demands *of* you and me, first Jesus comes *for* us. Jesus lives for us, dies for us, and Jesus rises for us. Jesus gives everything for us. He is *the* king worth following all the days of our lives! Just ask Matthew! Matthew 9:9, "As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him." Who is Jesus? He was the Kind King, the Compassionate King, the Rejected King, and now, He is the **Risen King**. Best of all, Jesus is **our King** to follow all the days of our lives.

So be it. Amen.

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As followers of Christ, "Keep loving one another earnestly

And show hospitality to one another without grumbling." AMEN! (1Pt 4:8-9)

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