



CHRIST *the* KING

Kerygma Preaching Series #3: Rescued Homily Outline

The 4 dimensions of the Gospel Message (Kerygma):

1) Created, 2) Captured, 3) Rescued, 4) Response

Has God done anything about our hopeless situation?

Grace to ask: *unshakeable confidence in Jesus as Lord of heaven and earth*

Back to image of being captured and held by human trafficker

Unshakeable confidence

- God Himself came to rescue us.
- “Redeemer” = “*Goel*” in Hebrew
- Meditation from St. Ignatius of Loyola: “Father, send me. I’ll go.”

Why did Jesus come?

He came to fight.

- “The reason the Son of God. Appeared was to destroy the words of the devil” (1Jn. 3:8).
- “While gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, your all-powerful word leaped from heaven, from the royal throne, into the midst of a land doomed, a stern warrior” (Wis. 18:14-15).

He invades the kingdom of satan from the outside in a clever way, in our human nature.

“Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise” (C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity).

What was Jesus doing on the Cross?

Jesus chose to die on the Cross willingly.

On the Cross, Jesus is...

- showing us the love of the Father, that God is love.

- making atonement for us.
- going to war to rescue us. He is hunting as the ultimate ambush predator.

What difference does it make?

What Jesus has done changes EVERYTHING!

By His death and glorious resurrection from the dead, Jesus has:

- humiliated and despoiled the enemy
- destroyed death
- transferred us from the kingdom of sin and death into His Kingdom.
- given us access to the Father: adopted into the sonship of God the Son.
- recreated us: "Behold I make all things new."
- rendered sin impotent: I no longer have to sin.
- given us authority over the enemy in His Name.
- sent us on a mission to get His world back.

"Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign of sabotage."

We are now equipped to fight, armed with love, truth, goodness, beauty, forgiveness and all the weapons of the kingdom of God. We're personally called and sent to *undo*, to sabotage, what the enemy has wrought ever since the Fall.

We are rescued so as to rescue.

Videos to watch on YouTube:

Fr. John Riccardo. "Rescued and Response: Jesus is not just Kind."

_____. "Someone has Come to Fight."

_____. "Rescued so as to Rescue: a Healing Conference."

Deeper dive in reading:

Fr. John Riccardo. *Rescued: The Unexpected and Extraordinary News of the Gospel*, Chapters 9-12.