

THEOLOGY OF THE LAITY

DISCIPLES IN THE WORLD

Session IV – Identity: King

Fr. JD Matherne

A. BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST'S THREEFOLD IDENTITY

NOTES

- **PRIEST**
- **PROPHET**
- **KING**

As sharers in the role of Christ as priest, prophet, and king, the laity have their work cut out for them in the life and activity of the Church. Their activity is so necessary within the Church communities that without it the apostolate of the pastors is often unable to achieve its full effectiveness.

- Apostolicam Actuositatem 10

B. LAITY AS KINGS

THE OLD TESTAMENT KING

- **KING DAVID – HIGHLIGHTS**

YOUNG LIFE	LATER LIFE
Anointed by prophet Samuel Reputation attracts King Saul's jealousy On the run from King Saul	Anointed King Transferred the capital of Judah to Jerusalem Brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem NOT PERFECT: Sin with Bathseda, wife of Uriah Rest of his mission littered with betrayals and rebellions

FOR PRAYER

C. JESUS'S REVELATION OF HIS KINGDOM

- **PILATE INTERROGATES JESUS**
 - **JOHN 18:33-38**

"So Pilate... summoned Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?" Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants [would] be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king.*"

For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" When he had said this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them, "I find no guilt in him."

- **LEX ORANDI, LEX CREDENDI**

"The way of prayer is the way of belief"

- **Rite of Baptism**

"Dearly beloved, this child has been reborn in baptism. He/She is now called the child of God, for so indeed he/she is. In confirmation he/she will receive the fullness of God's Spirit. In holy communion he/she will share the banquet of Christ's sacrifice, calling God his/her Father in the midst of the Church."

D. KING, BUT WHERE'S THE KINGDOM?

- **REVELATION 21:10-24**

He took me in spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It gleamed with the splendor of God. Its radiance was like that of a precious stone, like jasper, clear as crystal. It had a massive, high wall, with twelve gates where twelve angels were stationed and on which names were inscribed, [the names] of the twelve tribes of the Israelites. There were three gates facing east, three north, three south, and three west. The wall of the city had twelve courses of stones as its foundation, on which were inscribed the twelve names of the twelve apostles* of the Lamb. The one who spoke to me held a gold measuring rod to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city was square, its length the same as [also] its width. He measured the city with the rod and found it fifteen hundred miles in length and width and height. He also measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits according to the standard unit of measurement the angel used. The wall was constructed of jasper, while the city was pure gold, clear as glass. The foundations of the city wall were decorated with every precious stone; the first course of stones was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh hyacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made from a single pearl; and the street of the city was of pure gold, transparent as glass. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb. The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and to it the kings of the earth will bring their treasure.

FOR PRAYER

LUMEN GENTIUM 36

The faithful, therefore, must learn the deepest meaning and the value of all creation, as well as its role in the harmonious praise of God. They must assist each other to live holier lives even in their daily occupations. In this way the world may be permeated by the spirit of Christ and it may more effectively fulfill its purpose in justice, charity and peace.

THEMES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING**BALANCE OF SAMENESS & UNIQUENESS**

SOLIDARITY \longleftrightarrow SUBSIDIARITY

COMMON GOOD \longleftrightarrow HUMAN DIGNITY

LUMEN GENTIUM 36

Now Christ has communicated this royal power to His disciples that they might be constituted in royal freedom and that by true penance and a holy life they might conquer the reign of sin in themselves.

Further, He has shared this power so that serving Christ in their fellow men they might by humility and patience lead their brethren to that King for whom to serve is to reign.

CHRISTIFIDELES LAICI 14

Because the lay faithful belong to Christ, Lord and King of the Universe, they share in his kingly mission and are called by him to spread that Kingdom in history. They exercise their kingship as Christians, above all in the spiritual combat in which they seek to overcome in themselves the kingdom of sin (cf. Rom 6:12), and then to make a gift of themselves so as to serve, in justice and in charity, Jesus who is himself present in all his brothers and sisters, above all in the very least (cf. Mt 25:40).

FOR PRAYER

ST LOUIS, KING OF FRANCE

My dearest son, my first instruction is that you should love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your strength. Without this there is no salvation. Keep yourself, my son, from everything that you know displeases God, that is to say, from every mortal sin. You should permit yourself to be tormented by every kind of martyrdom before you would allow yourself to commit a mortal sin.

If the Lord has permitted you to have some trial, bear it willingly and with gratitude, considering that it has happened for your good and that perhaps you well deserved it. If the Lord bestows upon you any kind of prosperity, thank him humbly and see that you become no worse for it, either through vain pride or anything else, because you ought not to oppose God or offend him in the matter of his gifts.

...As long as you are in church, be careful not to let your eyes wander and not to speak empty words, but pray to the Lord devoutly, either aloud or with the interior prayer of the heart.

...Be kindhearted to the poor, the unfortunate and the afflicted. Give them as much help and consolation as you can. Thank God for all the benefits he has bestowed upon you, that you may be worthy to receive greater...Always side with the poor rather than with the rich, until you are certain of the truth.

HOMEWORK

- Keep praying 15 minutes each day
- Spend 5 minutes at the end of each day reflecting on grace/struggle of day, and closing with prayer:

I adore You, my God,
and I love You with all my heart.
I give You thanks for having created me,
for having made me a Christian,
and for having preserved me this day.
Pardon me for the evil I have done today;
if I have done anything good, please accept it.
Keep me while I take my rest
and deliver me from all dangers.
May Your grace be always with me.
Amen.

- Share the Gospel each day in word and deed to the people in your day to day life (family, co-workers, friends, etc.) again this week.
- **NEW ASSIGNMENT:** Learn about one social program that your local Catholic Charities runs in your diocese.

FOR PRAYER