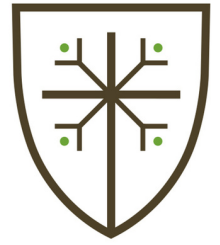


TO CARE & NOT TO CARE

Lent Sermon Series

Art: "Solens" by Dawn Waters Baker

SERMON NOTES



March 17, 2024

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Our Real Conflict"

PREACHER

Rev. Josh Keller

TEXTS

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. What are some of the outward signs of the messiah "doing battle" in your heart?
2. How is Christ an example for us of true obedience?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Josh continued our Lent sermon series with a look at Jesus as our Messiah, Priest, and King. He considered three questions:

What kind of a Messiah is Jesus?

We are all longing for a messiah, one who will rescue us either from the evil of the world or even just our own personal messiah to rescue us from our loneliness. But Jesus wasn't the kind of Messiah the people of Israel were looking for.

Our text calls Jesus "the Christ" and Christ literally means "Messiah" or "anointed one." Priests and kings were anointed. Priests acted on behalf of men in relationship to God. The letter to the Hebrews shows us that Jesus did what priests do. It says that he was a priest, but not just a priest – a priest after the order of Melchizedek. Melchizedek was a priest but also a king. And as Josh said, a King is unavoidably public, unable to be hidden.

Finally, Jesus's identity as Messiah is marked by perfect obedience. He learned the full extent of obedience by following it all the way to the cross. He is the only man who truly knew in full the extent of temptation.

What is the Messiah's conflict?

The first field of battle for Jesus as Messiah is the hearts of his people, not to manipulate them or bend them into subjection but to forgive and heal them. This is where his plan for kingship begins. It doesn't seem like a winning strategy to us, a conqueror who lays down his life. And it is easier for us to put the blame on someone else. "I'm not responsible, these people are. And it's the Messiah's job to fix them." But instead of putting his enemies into the ground, Jesus goes into the ground himself. Instead of lifting himself up in conquering might and glory, he lets himself be lifted up on the cross. This messiah's conflict does not start with fixing the sin and evil of the whole world, it starts with each person's individual sin and individual heart-condition.

What freedom does this Messiah bring?

Because of the work of our Messiah, we are free to seek glory like Christ through eternal self-giving love. You are free to care about what matters eternally and not care about what doesn't. You are free to engage with the evils of this world without submitting to the ways of the world. God has anointed you to fight evil with him and you can only do that if you allow him to first do battle in your own heart.