

Jesus as King – the Power of the Kingdom
9/7/25 -Pastor Zach
John 8:2-17, 18:8, Psalm 25:10, Heb 12:2 Col 3: 12-13

Connect: Have you ever denied knowing someone or something? What did that do to your heart?

Engage: Reread John 8:2-17 Do you see yourself in this story? Who do you relate to in this story? Peter? Judas? Malchus, who lost his ear? Are you a bystander? The girl by the fire?

Zach gave us 2 statements about Christ's divinity

Veiled divinity: He stepped forward and they fell back, I have not lost, the healing of the ear.

Power of divinity: Jesus still in control using all circumstances to bring about His will, willing to give Himself to suffer

What strikes you about these 2 statements?

Tim Keller: "It takes incredible strength to be weak." What do you think about that statement?

Jesus actively giving Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world

The people around Him were fighting to save themselves at the cost of killing Jesus

Where have you actively given to someone or where have you fought for yourself?

Expediency is regard for what is advantageous to self rather than for what is right or just. Where are you in that definition?

Thomas Merton: The greatest danger to the church – "Efficiency" What do you think of that statement ?

Jordan Peterson: Expedience – that's hiding all the skeletons in the closet.

That's covering the blood you just spilled with a carpet, that's avoiding responsibility. It cowardly, and shallow and wrong. There is no faith and no courage and no sacrifice in doing what is expedient... what is expedient works only for the moment. It's immediate, impulsive and limited.

How does that quote hit you?

Slow redeeming work is not a 5 lane highway – it is narrow path with a traffic jam. Psalm 25:10

Zach shared 3 points

1. Fix our hearts on a higher purpose. Heb 12:2
 - a. Where are you on that statement? Can you fix your heart on a higher purpose and trust God in that?
 - b. Do you think people in your life exist to serve you?
2. Be merciful of your own frailties and tendency to choose the easy path.
 - a. Where do you put yourself over others? Matt 26: 41

Often our weakness lies quietly beneath the areas we speak most confidently about. John 13:38 – where are you with this statement – can you say that it is true of you?

3. Will your decision build others up or just yourself?
 - a. Where are you with this statement? Take a moment to sit with this question.
 - b. Where do you need to make a decision to be weak?
Take this prayer and pray through it this week – Ask the Lord where you need to grow in this prayer.

*God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next.
Amen.*