



Stand Alone Message | More Than a Cultural Jesus | Joel Tiemeyer | 8.10.25

OPENING PRAYER & ICEBREAKER

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when you saw something in a completely new way that changed your perspective. How did that shift impact you?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Hebrews Chapter 1

John 20:29-31

Hebrews 7:25

Sermon Overview

This message from Hebrews 1 challenges us to see Jesus not merely as a cultural figure who fits into our lifestyle, but as the eternal King who calls us to transition from our culture into His kingdom. Jesus serves as the Great Prophet, Great High Priest, and King of Kings—roles that remain active in our lives today.

Key Sermon Takeaways

1. **Jesus is the Great Prophet** who prophesied about His own death and resurrection and continues to prophesy blessings over our lives today.
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2. **Jesus is the Great High Priest** who was both the offerer and the offering, providing eternal redemption once and for all, and who continually intercedes for us.
 3. **Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords** who rules over an eternal kingdom that will never be destroyed.
 4. **The Critical Question:** We may have a history with God, but do we have a destiny with God? Are we inviting Jesus into our culture or transitioning into His kingdom?
 5. **Cultural vs. Kingdom Living:** If it's popular in culture, it's likely a battleground in the kingdom. We must evaluate our lives from a kingdom perspective.
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. **Read Hebrews 1:1-12 together.** What stands out to you most about how Jesus is described in these verses? Which title or description is most meaningful to you personally?
2. The sermon emphasized that Jesus is "the exact imprint of [God's] nature" (Hebrews 1:3). What does this tell us about what God is like? How does this impact how we approach Him?
3. Explain the difference between having a "history with God" and having a "destiny with God." Which one better describes your current relationship with Jesus?

Going Deeper

4. Pastor Joel stated: "If it is popular in culture, it is a battleground in the kingdom." Can you identify areas in contemporary culture that conflict with kingdom values? How do you navigate these tensions?
 5. Jesus served as both the priest (offerer) and the lamb (offering). How does understanding this dual role deepen your appreciation for what Christ accomplished on the cross?
 6. **Read John 20:29-31 and Hebrews 7:25.** How does knowing that Jesus is currently prophesying blessings over you AND interceding for you change how you face your current challenges?
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Personal Application

7. Pastor Joel asked: "Are we inviting Jesus into our culture, or are we transitioning into His kingdom?" Be honest—in what areas of your life are you trying to make Jesus fit your lifestyle rather than surrendering to His lordship?

8. Evaluate these areas of your life from a "kingdom vs. culture" perspective:
 - Your marriage or relationships

 - How you're raising your children (if applicable)

 - Your work/business practices

 - How you spend your time and set priorities

 - Your entertainment and media consumption

Which area needs the most adjustment?

9. Pastor Joel mentioned that believers need to be activated beyond Sunday morning. What is one specific action the Holy Spirit is prompting you to take this week to live more kingdom-focused?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following action steps:

For Those Needing Salvation or Recommitment:

- If you've never fully surrendered your life to Jesus, or if you need to rededicate your life, reach out to your small group leader or pastor this week to take that step.

For Those Called to Ministry:

- If you sense God calling you to lead, start a Bible study, serve in a specific area, or step into full-time ministry, write down what you believe God is asking you to do and share it with one trusted person who can help hold you accountable.
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For Everyone:

- **Daily Prayer Focus:** Each morning this week, pray: "Lord Jesus, You are my Great Prophet, my Great High Priest, and my King of Kings. Show me today how to live in Your kingdom rather than conform to culture."
- **Kingdom Evaluation:** Choose one area from question #8 and make one concrete change this week that aligns your life more with kingdom values than cultural norms.
- **Scripture Meditation:** Read and meditate on Hebrews 1 every day this week. Journal about what new insights you discover about Jesus.

Accountability

Pair up with another group member and commit to checking in with each other during the week about the action step you chose.

Closing Reflection Questions

- What is one thing God spoke to you about during this discussion?
- What is one thing God spoke to you about during this discussion?
- How can we pray for you specifically?

Memory Verse for the Week

Hebrews 1:3 "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power."

Closing Prayer

Close by praying for each person's specific needs and commitments. Pray that God would help each person transition from cultural Christianity to kingdom living, and that Jesus would be recognized not just as a Sunday Savior but as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords over every area of life.

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to those who may need to make first-time commitments to Christ or recommitments.
 - Create a safe space for honest conversation about areas where culture has influenced beliefs or behaviors.
 - Don't rush through the questions—it's better to cover fewer questions deeply than many questions superficially.
 - Be prepared to share your own struggles with culture vs. kingdom living to model vulnerability.
 - Follow up during the week with anyone who shares a significant struggle or commitment.
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