

Advent Week Three – The King of Love

Advent is a wonderful time to bring our attention and reverence to the birth of Jesus and the true meaning of the Christmas season. It is a time where Christians from around the globe slow down to reflect on the peace, joy, love and hope that Jesus Christ came down to secure for us.

Back, this week, in the book of Hebrews we see that Jesus is the King of Love. We look at Hebrews because it shows us how much greater Jesus is. Jesus is greater than all the angels, greater than all the prophets, priests, and kings of old. He is greater than any old covenant institution, including the temple and entire sacrificial system.

Devotional:

In 2009 I heard a story about an ice climber on Good Morning America. While ice climbing is not my type of sport, being more of the two feet on the floor type of person, I listened with half an ear to his story as I was getting ready for work. As he spoke it became clear that while Cri Boratenski was a veteran climber, that day he made a rookie mistake. He was the first to reach the top and instead of using a carabineer to anchor himself, he chose to use a nylon rope instead. When the rope failed, he fell 72 feet onto the snow and ice. Miraculously, he survived and while his injuries were many, he was back to work in a week. A bit broken and worse for wear, but alive.

What really caught my attention during the interview was his statement about how he had secured himself. "I was using the wrong material for my anchor," he said. He had an anchor, but the means of holding him to it was not as strong as he needed. That made me think, what am I anchored to? And am I using the right material for my anchor?

We all have the choice of how we anchor our lives. If it's not solid or the connection is weak, we may be allowed to fall into trouble. So many times we anchor ourselves to things or people who can't take the load. It may be our job, family, or money, all good but are those things as solid as we would hope?

As we talk about Jesus being our anchor, I love the thought that He is holding us exactly where we need to be, at perfect peace at the right hand of the Father. I think though of that quote and the material that holds me? Is it my doctrine? Or even my church, pastor or ministry? Or is it the one simple thing that started this all? Love. It was the love that created this world, and made a way, even when sin separated us. The love of God, that was shown perfectly through His son, Jesus. His love is the tie that binds, and its strength can never be broken.

Getting Started:

- What's the best Christmas gift you've ever gotten?
- What's the best Christmas gift you've ever given?

Digging in:

- Read Hebrews 6:19-7:3
- Display four candles (one for each week). Light candle one, two, and three – the Peace Candle, the Hope Candle, and the Love Candle.

Questions:

1. What life lessons have you learned from securing to the wrong anchor?
2. Jesus being our high priest shows us that Jesus is enough. What could you do this Christmas to remember that Jesus is enough?
3. If we believe that Jesus is the King of Love, what can you do this Christmas to share the King of Love with someone else?