

GOD WITH US

His People. His Dwelling Place.

Jesus, King of My Heart - Ps Marno Jansen

How do you know when someone has changed from a guest to a resident? A guest can feel relaxed in a home but once someone has truly moved in: they are comfortable moving things around, and even throwing some things out. **Is Jesus a guest or a resident in your heart?**

In *Matthew 21:1-14*, we read about an incredible moment in history. Jesus enters Jerusalem on the back of a donkey as the prophesied Messiah, the king the Jewish people were waiting for. All the expectation is on Jesus to overthrow the Romans and set the Jewish people 'free'. In the middle of all this, **what does Jesus do?**

Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers." Matt 21:12-14

Jesus does not go to the fortress of the Romans, but rather the temple that represents the dwelling place of God. He clears the temple of people misusing this place. Jesus wants the same to be true of our hearts: **a place that is surrendered to him as King**, where he can move things around.

What does it mean to say Jesus is the King of my Heart?

1. **He is our King:** So much of our relationship with Him is based on our view of him. For this reason, we have to grow in our revelation of who he is. The mystery and beauty of our King is that he is all-powerful, majestic and great, and at the same time he is humble and gentle. We have access to our King and can come to him. (Eph 1:21-22; Phil 2:9; Matt 11:28-30)
2. **He deserves everything, but he desires our hearts:** It is very possible to serve Him, without giving Him access to your whole heart. *Psalms 51:16 - 17* paints the beautiful picture of a God who wants your heart. He deserves all our treasures and more but he pursues our hearts. He isn't interested in pretence or performance, but true communion with us.
3. **He wants to be the King within:** The people expected a King that would drive out their enemies around them yet He wanted to do something within them. Jesus wants to change us from the inside out. Jesus clears our hearts from things that we sometimes value more than Him: people's opinions, possessions, and also practices (sin or service) that cause us to push away from God.

*Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.* Psalm 139:23-24

Reflection:

1. As our King, Jesus wants to be the only influence in our hearts. Ask Him to search your heart, and reveal to you any thing that you have been valuing over Him.
2. Jesus is gentle and loving to help us refocus on what really matters. Ask Him to show you how you can fully surrender your heart to Him in your life everyday.