

“The Crimp Fold” | Is Jesus a Prophet or Messiah?

GETTING STARTED: What experience do you have with *The Chronicles of Narnia*? Have you read the books or seen the movies? What images and emotions do you associate with Aslan?

EXPLORE THE TOPIC

1. Why was it important for Jesus to distinguish the difference between “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” and “Who do you say that I am?” when talking with his disciples? Why must we wrestle with the same questions in our own lives?
2. What common ways do people answer the question, “Who is Jesus?” How do people form their ideas about who Jesus is? To what extent is Jesus commonly accepted as “king”?
3. Read Matthew 16:13-14. This was the first time Jesus asked his disciples to talk with him about himself and how people perceive him. What is significant about these responses?
 - John the baptist
 - Elijah
 - Jeremiah
4. When someone is baptized at South Side, they repeat these words, “*I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God.*” How does that align with what Simon Peter said in Matthew 16:16?
5. Explain what Matthew Henry means in his quote, “It is possible for me to have good thoughts of Christ, and yet not right ones, a high opinion of him, and not yet high enough.” What would it look like for someone to have “good thoughts” or “a high opinion” of Jesus, but still be incorrect?
6. Consider Matthew 16:20. What might the disciples have been thinking or feeling after these instructions? Why did Jesus order them to tell no one?
7. How is Jesus king? In what ways does he differ from the traditional way that a king is presented?
8. Review Jesus’ prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 (especially verse 10). What words help establish Jesus as king?
9. What practical things can a person do to live into the reality of Jesus’ kingship? What actions can you take? What words can you say?
10. Read through the “Confessional Prayer to King Jesus” found on the back side of this page. Take turns reading one line per person. After praying the prayer together, identify which words or phrases stood out the most to you. How did this prayer challenge you? How did it encourage you?

APPLY THE TRUTH

Consider using the “Confessional Prayer to Jesus the King” once per day this week. How would greater familiarity with some of the language included in the prayer impact your prayer life?

NOTES:

Ways to use this prayer:

As a group: Take turns reading a stanza. Allow time to pause and reflect.

As an individual: Read throughout the week.

Consider reading out loud. Underline words that are particularly meaningful to you. Reflect on Jesus as King.

Confessional Prayer To Jesus the King

Oh, Jesus, King of this world, Ruler of God's Kingdom.
We confess to you, our King of majesty and justice,
what we are.

We are not the people we like others to think we are.
We are afraid to admit, even to ourselves, what lies at
the depths of our souls.

We have failed in our calling to be your holy people,
A people set apart by hope for your purposes of
justice and healing.

We live more in indifference than in joy and passion
and hope.

We are moved more by private ambition than by
justice for this world.

We worship objects of affection made in our image
than of the true image of God.

We dream more of privilege and benefits than of
service and sacrifice.

Reshape our hearts and lives for your Kingdom,
May we submit to you as subjects to a king.

May we live as royal heirs in service to the world.

May we proclaim the good news that you are
reigning in the Kingdom.

May we love the people of this world and ask them to
praise you, our King.

May we be ministers of reconciliation and witnesses
of your Kingdom.

Forgive us, revive us, and mold us in your image.

For you are the Messiah, the King of David, the Son of
the living God.

In your Spirit, we submit our allegiance to you.

Amen.