

Devotion for Lent 6

Psalm 31:9-16

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and body also.

For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away.

**Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach, especially to my neighbours,
and an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.**

I have been forgotten like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.

For I hear the whispering of many—terror on every side!
—as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, ‘You are my God.’

My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

Make your face shine on your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen*

Philippians 2:1-30

The humility of Christ Jesus

1)What motivated Jesus to humble Himself?

2)Why is “Jesus” the highest name?

3)How can we express humility as Christians?

Matthew 21:1-46

Jesus cleanses the temple and teaches

1)What is the significance of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem?

2)What did Jesus say about Himself by cleansing the temple?

3)What did Jesus express about Himself through His teaching?

“A Welcome fit for the Saviour-King”

On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem, hailed by the pilgrim crowd, as the “Son of David,” and was received as the “King of Israel.” He was the “King of Israel,” “the shoot of the stump of Jesse,” promised centuries earlier through Isaiah, who would restore the royal reign of David, which had been cut off by the Babylonians five centuries earlier. He was the “Son of David,” who would receive the everlasting kingdom God promised David centuries earlier through the prophet Nathan.

He was welcomed as the King, but the welcome He received, while pious and an expression of faithful and loving hearts, was underwhelming in comparison to the welcome earthly kings received when entering a city. A Pharaoh, a Caesar or an Emperor, would have entered the city in a golden chariot, pulled by a team of white horses. Civic leaders and local dignitaries would have welcomed him into the city, long speeches would have been made and he would have been honoured with a gift!

Jesus received a welcome fit a king, but not an earthly king, a president, prime-minister or queen. He received a welcome fit for a king who had surrendered all, humbled Himself and taken the form of a servant. There was no golden crib for Him to rest in at birth, and so there was no golden chariot to carry Him into Jerusalem. His birth was heralded by angels, not to the rich and powerful, but to shepherds keeping watch at night over their flocks. Wise men sought and found Him, but His own king tried to kill him.

The cruel anger of King Herod, foreshadowed the deadly anger of the leaders of Jerusalem, who watched with disdain as the crowd of pilgrims welcomed Him into their city as king. Their anger, expressed in His arrest, would be fulfilled in His crucifixion, under orders of the representative of the Roman king.

Jesus is a king unlike all other kings. He is the King who made himself lowly, even to the point of death on the cross, so we would be raised up in forgiveness and stand in the presence of God; now through faith, but one day fully in His resurrection to life everlasting. He is the king who came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. He is the King who rose from the grave, so that whoever calls on His name would have forgiveness in time and receive from Him the crown of life in eternity!

Hymn: “All Glory, Laud and Honour” (Public Domain)

Chorus

All glory, laud and honour, To you, Redeemer King.
To whom the lips of children, Made Sweet hosannas ring.

You are the king of Israel, And David’s royal Son,
Now in the Lord’s Name coming, Our King and Blessed One.

The company of angels, Are praising you on high;
Creation and all mortals, In chorus make reply.

The multitude of pilgrims, with palms before you went,
Our praise and prayer and anthems, Before you we present.

To you, before your Passion, They sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted, Our melody we raise.

Their praises you accepted; Accept the prayers we bring,
Great Author of all goodness, O good and gracious King.

Prayer

Dearest Jesus, on the last Sunday before your death, you entered Jerusalem in accordance with the words of the prophet, “*humble and seated on a donkey.*” You were welcomed by the pilgrim crowd in royal fashion, with a carpet of branches and shouts of “*Hosanna*” and “*Hail to the Son of David.*” Even as you entered Jerusalem in humble manner, you came into your kingdom through the suffering and humiliation of the cross. The welcoming crowds were gone, replaced by a different crowd; people who mocked and insulted you. In infinite mercy you prayed your heavenly Father to forgive them. It was for this reason that you came; to reconcile God and humanity through the sacrifice of your cross and bring forgiveness to the human heart through faith in your Name. Bless us always with faith to believe. Forgive our sins. By your grace, strengthen and sustain our faith to life everlasting. In your name. Amen

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Benediction 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.”

Bible Knowledge Quiz

What was the name of Paul and Barnabas’s travelling companion?

What was the name of Paul’s travelling companion after he and Barnabas parted?

Why did Paul and Barnabas have a falling out after their first missionary journey?

Answers to last weeks’ Quiz

Blood (Hebrews 9:7)

His own blood (Hebrews 9:12)

The blood of Jesus (Hebrews 10:19)