



St. Michael's Church
CHARLESTON, SC

NOVEMBER 22, 2020
PSALM 23, MARK 15:25-39

JESUS AS KING AND KING IN OUR LIVES
PREACHER: THE REV. AL ZADIG, JR.

HELP US LORD TO BE SO CONNECTED TO YOU THAT WE MIGHT BECOME YOUR DISCIPLES AND
THE SERVANTS OF OTHERS.

TAKE OUR LIPS AND SPEAK THROUGH THEM,
OUR MINDS AND THINK THROUGH THEM,
AND TAKE OUR HEARTS, AND SET THEM ON FIRE.

Last Sunday in studying Mark 14, I said “we will never understand Christianity until we understand the power of two cups.” The Cup of wrath and the Cup of Salvation. Jesus from His knees In Mark 14...cries out: “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow even to the point of death Abba Father, Take this cup from me.” A cup that represents the cup of wrath, where every time you and I sin, it's a drop in the cup. Every time you and I fall short of the glory of God, it's a drop in the cup. It's a cup also collecting God's wrath against sin. The cup is overflowing with the wrath, the punishment of God. A cup that has accumulated the fury of God against sins, like adultery, gossip, pride, ego, unforgiveness, hoarding, you name it. As a result of our sin, this cup of God's wrath is one we should be forced to drink.. BUT...The power of Christianity is that Jesus drinks the cup of God's wrath for us by dying on the cross, that we might be free! BUT! Because Jesus drank from that cup of wrath we deserve, we now have a different cup! At Communion we drink the new cup, the resulting blood of Christ, the CUP of our Salvation! The New cup reminds us that His blood saved us from the cup of wrath! When we drink from the new cup (as we will next week for the first Sunday of Advent) we are not only reminded of His Atoning death for us, but we receive the Blood of Christ as fuel for ministry!

Today, Mark 15, which reveals what those 2 cups cost Jesus. Three major things:

1. Mockery
2. Spiritual torture slash alienation from God.
3. And death through physical torture.

First, mockery. Soldiers mocked Him. Passerbyers mocked Him. Criminals near Jesus mocked Him. Jesus rejected and insulted by the very people he came to rescue. Imagine if you were a fireman, rescuing a family from their burning living room in a raging house fire, only to be insulted then rejected! “We don’t need rescue, get out!” Jesus was rejected by the very people he came to save. Then the Spiritual torture of Alienation from God. At the 9th hour of the day, Jesus repeats the words of David from Psalm 22. “My God, My God, why have you Forsaken Me!” At that moment, Jesus drank the cup of wrath in our place, and is alienated from God. Jesus takes our sin upon Himself and in doing so, is alienated from God. Psalm 22 fulfilled in Mark 15.

Mockery. Momentary Alienation from God. Third, His physical torture and death. There was no other method of capital punishment more excruciating than crucifixion. First there was the flogging, whipping, then hanging on the cross by nails that simply let the victim die slowly, prolonging the torture until the heart of the victim gave up.

My friends, the cost of our salvation – mockery, alienation, a torturous death – reveal three things about the character of God. First, the unfathomable love of God, sending his only child to die to save us. Unfathomable love. When you and I look at the Cross, Jesus is saying to us, My love is limitless, my love will bear every suffering for you! Second, it reveals things are never as they seem in our world, when all seems lost, God is still in control. Third, the cross reveals a new way of life. When we drink from the resulting cup..the cup of salvation...the blood of Christ, it is in that moment Jesus becomes King of our lives!

Back to Mark 15. On the top of the head of Jesus, a sign reading: THE KING OF THE JEWS. The Romans meant it for continual mockery. The truth is, when we drink from the resulting cup, when we ask Jesus to reign in our hearts, we are saying Jesus be King of my life! Now any good American would say, we don’t want a king! We ran from Kingship in England! But Kingship in the New Testament, Kingship on this Christ the King Sunday, means less ruling over a place and refers more to the realm in which we let Jesus be King and control my life! Lord by drinking the cup of salvation I am making you King over every area of my life! Remember what’s required to drink from the cup at Communion? That we confess our sins, then receive the cup of salvation. It’s in that moment Jesus is made King!

And here another analogy. Consider the Atom. The atom is the basic building block for all matter in the universe. Atoms are small and made up of even smaller particles. But before the power of the atom was discovered, science had to devise a way to smash the atom. The secret of the atom’s immeasurable and limitless power was in its being crushed. When the atom is crushed, its true power is released, a process called Nuclear Fission.

In the same way, when Jesus was crushed on the cross, his power was released! When we confess our sins, and empty ourselves, and ask Christ to fill us, His power-His Kingship is released in us! Spiritual Nuclear Fission!

As I seem to ask each week, doesn’t this cause you to love Jesus even more? Jesus, thank you for drinking that cup of wrath for me. Thank you for the resulting cup of Salvation!

I make you King of my life, Jesus I love you! Be King over me! Reign over my mind, my will, our hearts. Reign as the one we love most, above all things and people. My friends, I don't know about you, but I want to live my life in that place of confession, that tender place of living UNDER the Kingship of Jesus, where the cup of communion, His blood is overflowing into every area of my life! That my life-our lives -become a dripping wet image of Jesus. Where people look at us and see Jesus, not because we are pious or self-righteous, but because our hearts are softened, malleable, forgiven, and free under His Kingship. Lord let your cup runneth over in my life.

Which is why I end by taking you to Psalm 23. Just as Jesus quoted from Psalm 22 on the cross, through Gospel lenses, I want to take you to David's most beloved Psalm.

Psalm 23, verses 5 and 6. When the Lord is my Shepherd, i.e., when Jesus is made King in my life, my cup runneth over! Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the House of the Lord Forever.

Just as Mark 15 reveals the three things it cost Jesus, Psalm 23 reveals three blessings as a result of Jesus being made King in my life and the cup of Salvation! My cup runneth over in three ways. First, Goodness will follow me all the days of my life. Goodness here meaning grace. When Jesus is made King of my life, I will have grace. Grace meaning I will give people in my life what they don't deserve: I will give forgiveness, unconditional love, a second, third and fourth chance!

Second, when Jesus is made King of my life, my cup runneth over, and I will have Mercy. Mercy here meaning NOT giving people what they DO deserve, such as unforgiveness, condemnation, the cold shoulder, and Estrangement. By the way, both Grace and Mercy are critical for your Thanksgiving table this week!

Third, "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!" There is no END in forever! There is nothing to fear when we die! We will live eternally with THE KING! When Jesus is made King, "My cup runneth over, surely goodness - giving people what they don't deserve - and mercy - not giving people what they do deserve - shall follow me all the days of my life" and I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever!

My friends, none of this is possible without Jesus drinking that first cup of the wrath of God to give us the second, the cup of our salvation, our fuel, where He is made King of our lives.

Well I began with two cups, let me end with two questions and an offer. First, what is keeping you from making Jesus King over your entire life – every part, from your family life to your work life and financial life? Jesus take the reins. Second, have you told anyone in your life, even your family and friends, about the transition of Jesus as static unknowable God, to King, who when crushed, releases atomic power in the form of grace, mercy, and eternal life.

Two questions. -Now the offer. Would you like to make Jesus King over your life now? Let us pray.