

# **Make Sure Jesus is King of Your Heart**

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe is one feast in which we recognize the grand majesty of Jesus. This feast helps deepen our understanding of who Jesus is.

In the incarnation, Jesus expresses and realizes the desire of an infinite God to draw inconceivably close to us and take on our nature. As a result, it can be easy for us to picture this as his natural state: that Jesus is merely human. It can be difficult to recognize Jesus' divinity in our culture where we overemphasize the closeness, niceness and even friendship of God. As good as some of these things may be, they mean nothing if we don't recognize Jesus' authority.

There are many different ways we picture Jesus: friend, brother, savior, teacher and shepherd. However, this feast of the Church is completely dedicated to Jesus as king. Many images of Jesus as king show him with a large crown on his head and a globe in his hand, symbolizing how the world and all things are subject to his reign. But is this really the case?

If someone comes up to us on the street and asks if Jesus is king of the universe, many of us would respond with, "Yes, Jesus is king of the universe!" However, if someone asks, "Is Jesus the king of your heart? Does Jesus have authority there on a daily basis?" we might hesitate to acknowledge his kingship there. In the dialogue between Pilate and Jesus, Pilate recognized Jesus as a king of somewhere, but not king under his own roof. Does he enter under our roof with the same reality?

This is the last Sunday in ordinary time before we begin the season of Advent, which specifically focuses on preparing our hearts to receive Jesus, the king. Jesus says, "My kingdom is not of this world." If our thoughts, goals, desires and lives are of this world, how can Jesus be king of our hearts? If we seek to make Christ the king of our hearts, it might be worth our time this Advent season to consider "giving up" something of the kingdom of this world, something that may have too much authority or control over us, so that we can prepare the way in our hearts to receive the King of the Universe. Our desire to have Christ reign in our hearts must be out of this world.

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