

KINGSHIP & SERVICE

This week we celebrate Charles becoming our crowned King. There may be differing views on the royal family within your group, at least within the country there is. But this week is about celebrating what we have and reflecting the symbol of kingship within the Christian story.

SHARE

Share with one another what it is you like about our new king. I have had the honour of meeting Prince Philip and Princess Anne but never King Charles although I did watch that brilliant 'Repair Shop' episode featuring him.

PRAY

Together spend a moment thanking God for our Royal family. Ask God to use them to help our country draw closer to the person of Christ.

READ Luke 22.24-30

A dispute arose... Imagine being part of a sports team and someone starts saying that they are much better than their team mates. What do you think would happen? Here Jesus is seeing his team fall apart through comparison and competition and he quickly corrects their world view on what it means to lead in the kingdom of God.

Here at the last supper Jesus is trying to tell his disciples about the imminent trials they will all face but they continue to misunderstand and perhaps not even listen properly. Rather they are listening to what they want, what they expect to happen next. The disciples are excited and fearful about being in Jerusalem, this is the moment when Jesus takes the throne, to be crowned Israel's King of the Jews. Except things don't go the way they expect despite Jesus many warnings in and around this passage. Dane Ortlund writes that 'our deepest instincts expect God to be thundering, gavel swinging, judgment relishing.'¹ Israel was hoping the messiah would be like this towards their oppressors. A miraculous violent overthrowing of the powers of the day. We often expect God's rule to mean retribution for our waywardness and yet scripture repeatedly taps us on the shoulder and stop us in our tracks. 'Great is the glory of the Lord. For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly.' (Ps. 138:5-6)

What are your needs and expectations of the royal family and our new king? Do they fit with Jesus' views on what true 'ruling' looks like?

READ 1 Peter 2:4-10

We are called a **royal** priesthood, precious to God. We are those who have received God's mercy and are now living in the light of his love and grace so that we can lead others to the kingdom of God.

Do you feel like royalty? What might it feel like to be part of the royal family? We often think of the surface elements, the fine clothes, estates, money, a posh English accent but what about what it would feel like to be held responsible for the welfare of your people.

Do you feel like you are God's royal priesthood? What if we did. How do you feel about being bearer of light to all corners of our community? Is there someone or somewhere that God has placed on your heart?

¹ Dane Ortlund, Gentle & Lowly, 2020