

Behold, Our King!

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Today, we revisit our 2025 theme: Behold, Our King! Each month, we have been focusing on the rule of Jesus. The apostle Paul explained about our king that, “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” (Colossians 1:15-20).

This month, we will consider King Jesus as our example for living. As citizens of His kingdom, we are to be using His power to radiate His glory, expand His empire, and prepare for His arrival. Notice three qualities of our King that must be present in our character to serve His cause.

The Traits of Our King

1). Humility. On the list of top traits for leaders, humility is likely absent. Politicians, CEOs, and mid-level managers are often driven by ego. They are willing to do whatever it takes to get power. Yet, this does not describe the leadership style of Jesus. Jesus was humble.

Throughout the Bible, creedal statements were developed among believers and incorporated into the text. These passages stand out stylistically. They are often composed differently from an author’s typical form. These statements were used to transmit important information in a way that could easily be memorized. One such text is Philippians 2:6-11. This Scripture is a poem that describes the humility of our king:

“...though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

2). Obedience. This is a surprising quality of our King. Kings are to be obeyed; yet Jesus was obedient. It has been said that before we can lead, we must first follow. This certainly was demonstrated by Jesus. As the text of Philippians chapter two indicates, Jesus was obedient to His Father by coming to earth and dying on the cross.

Jesus often described His leadership in terms of self-giving service. To convey this, He used the analogy of shepherding. Jesus said He was the “Good Shepherd” because He would lay down His life for His sheep and beyond (John 10). In return, Jesus asks that we are self-giving and sacrificial in our service.

3). Faithful endurance. The Bible tells us that Jesus qualified Himself to be our King by suffering: “In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered” (Hebrews 5:7-8).

Nothing about Jesus’ purpose was easy. From being assaulted by Satan in the wilderness to bearing the sins of the world, He bore a heavy burden. He was often met with criticism. People attempted to kill Him. Even among supporters, He encountered disbelief. Yet, He endured.

The narrative of Jesus defies logical explanation. To understand why He subjected Himself to the agony of the human experience is beyond the pale. Strangely enough, we are told that joy motivated His endurance: “...for the joy that was set before him endured the cross...” (Hebrews 12:2). The joy of pleasing His Father and saving the world empowered Jesus to live and die for us.

Conclusion

The character of our King cannot be overstated. His example is not intended to intimidate us. It is intended to inspire us to be like Him. If we are to become part of His kingdom, we must first have enough humility to admit our sins. Then, we must obey, resolving to repent of our sins and be baptized for the remission of our sins. In our new life in Christ, we must faithfully endure in the world.

This is how life in the Kingdom of Jesus works. Humility, obedience, and faithful endurance are perfectly exemplified in our King. We must follow in His steps for His glory and our salvation.