



Who Will Reign on David's Throne?

Considering a Message from Matt. 2:13-23

For the Week of January 5th, 2020

This Sunday we are observing the 2nd Sunday of Christmas. Our lessons focus on how Christ our great King, came in lowliness. From the start, He was threatened and despised. His parents had to flee to preserve His life from the murderous hands of King Herod. And yet, though He has come in such lowliness, He is in fact the true King of Kings—come to serve US His people. He does not come as a wicked tyrant, but as a loving, concerned friend. How blessed we are to have such a king as this! This also gives us reason to persevere through the trials and struggles that we face in our own lives—as Peter explains in our Epistle Lesson (1 Peter 4:12-19): “Rejoice whenever you are sharing in the sufferings of Christ.” Our King also offers a great feast for us—He gives us His own body and blood—given to us in selfless love—in the Lord’s Supper. Here we find encouragement to keep going in spite of the difficulties we face in our lives. We depart in peace knowing that our King has declared us “forgiven!”

Opening Prayer: We thank You Heavenly Father for bringing us together. Send Your Holy Spirit to help us grow in faith and love, especially as we gather together with our fellow Christians. We ask you to forgive us for the times when we set ourselves on the throne that rightly belongs to Jesus. Help us to instead place Him in our hearts as our King of Kings—the one who has come to save us. Help us to honor Him as our true king throughout our lives. We pray this in His name, Amen.

CONNECT to Each Other

For this first session, take a few moments to get to know each other better—especially anyone who might be new or unfamiliar to the people in your group. In @ a minute each, have every person introduce themselves with: first/last name, immediate family, where you work(ed) how long you’ve been a member of Mt. Olive, and one thing you like to help others remember you: *“I’m the guy or gal who likes to...”*

1. Those who hold high positions, power, and authority are often tempted to abuse these things for personal gain and selfish reasons! Looking back throughout history, can you think of examples of those who fell to such temptations?
2. People go to great lengths to have a powerful position such as President of the United States. Think of all the perks and advantages that come with such power. What are some things that people are willing to do in order to become a ruler of a nation?

CONNECT to the Word—*Read the Bible text together (also consider its context): Matthew 2:13-23*

3. What was King Herod willing to do in order to maintain his power and authority over Israel?

4. Have someone in your group look up and share 2 Samuel 7:13. In this verse it says that King David's reign would last "forever." It was clearly a reference to a spiritual kingdom. In what ways does David and his reign over Israel point us ahead to Jesus and His spiritual reign?



5. In what ways do we resemble King Herod when we attempt to be the ruler over our own lives? What is the evidence for that?
6. How did God carry out the protection of His Son Jesus when Herod threatened Him?
7. Read through Psalm 2. How does Psalm 2 connect to and even foretell the events in our text?

CONNECT to Life

8. How does God protect us from the efforts of the world and the devil and our own sinful flesh to remove us from the Kingdom of Jesus and His grace?
9. How did the hymns, other lessons, parts of the service, etc. fit together with the Sermon message and overall theme for the day?

CONNECT in Prayer—*In closing & throughout the week!*

- PLEASE OFFER PRAYERS that God would help us always keep Christ king in our own hearts! AND that we might rejoice in knowing that we are part of His eternal kingdom!
- PRAY for our various Connect Groups as they begin meeting for the Winter session. That they may continue to be a blessing to our church and strengthen our Mt. Olive members in their faith.
- PRAY for Owen Saidler, 5th Grader in our school, who was recently hospitalized and will need further treatment on his heart at the Children's Hospital in coming weeks. Pray for Owen's family also!
- PRAY for God's protection and that He might grant wisdom to our government and those in authority as tensions increase especially in the Middle East.
- PRAY for our congregational budget—as we face a deficit. That God might open hearts towards generous giving and increased stewardship. That He might provide for His church and continue to bless the work that we are doing!
- PRAY! Take requests and remember them in your daily prayers from your fellow Connect Group members!

