

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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SERMON OUTLINE

JESUS THE KING WHOSE KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD

JOHN 18:1-40 | REV. BOBOT ANDALIS

John 18 reveals the profound truth that Jesus is the King, and His kingdom is not of this world. The chapter opens in the garden in Kidron, where Judas Iscariot led a band of soldiers to betray Jesus. Despite earlier declarations of loyalty, Peter also denied Jesus not once but thrice. Another disciple, possibly John was present but chose to remain silent during Jesus' trials. These denials underscore the widespread rejection Jesus faced from those who should have recognized and followed Him. In this section, Jesus was taken to Annas, the former high priest, for questioning. He was also sent to Caiaphas, the current high priest, where He faced interrogation (vv. 1-27).

Annas and Caiaphas found no guilt in Jesus, that is why He was sent to Pilate, the Roman Governor. Because there was no accusation against Him, Pilate instead asked the Jewish

leaders to render judgement based on Jewish law. The leaders could not do this because they did not have the power to effect a death sentence (vv. 28-32).

Pilate once again questioned Him about His kingship. He asked Jesus directly if he was the King of the Jews. Jesus replied with a question asking Pilate if his inquiry was of his own accord or because of what others said of Him. Pilate insistently asked the Lord, "what have you done?" To this the Lord replied, stating about His kingdom that is not characterized of this world. Pilate once more asked Jesus if He was a king. Jesus replied, "for this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world – to bear witness to the truth." After this conversation, Pilate reiterated that he found no guilt in Jesus. Instead of releasing Jesus, he

told the Jews of a custom that they could release a prisoner. The Jews chose Barrabas, a robber to be released which meant that Jesus was to be put to death, fulfilling the prophecy of His sacrificial death (vv. 33-40).

The chapter highlights the truth that despite the rejection and suffering He endured, Jesus remained obedient to His mission, demonstrating His omniscience, omnipotence and willingness to face judgment and death for the sake of humanity. His innocence highlights the purity of His sacrifice, reinforcing the spiritual nature of His kingdom which is a stark contrast to this deceiving and sinful world.

In this sermon, we are challenged to submit to King Jesus' authority, and to allow Him to reign supreme in our lives. ✨

KING JESUS, OUR LIVING HOPE

REV. DON GUICO

"But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.'" Matthew 28:5-6 (ESV)

The Philippines observes the commemoration of the dead every 1st and 2nd of November. People flock to cemeteries or columbaria to pay homage and offer prayers on their behalf. Though many people believe that the acts of kindness of their dearly departed would be enough to merit them entry into heaven, they still pray and perform acts of penance in case these acts of kindness were not enough to tip the scales of heaven in their favor. It is unfortunate that their eternal security is but a wish. There is no true assurance of eternal rest for them, no guarantee was given that they will be with Jesus in heaven. There is no rest either for their family who remain behind because they continue to do the "work" that they think will work. And so the cycle continues, generation after generation.

When the followers of Jesus then heard the angel proclaim that Jesus is alive, this great news changed their lives forever and the history of the world, as well. "Jesus has risen from the grave! He has defeated the power of death.

Everything He said was true. He is God, indeed!", must be what was going through their minds. And they could not contain the news. It is so compelling that it could not stop them from sharing it to all. And share the news they did!

They went where the Holy Spirit led them and, in the Spirit's power, boldly proclaimed Jesus, the good news Himself. Despite their lack of credentials, even the Jewish elite were so impressed with their passion and boldness that they could only attribute this to their time spent with Jesus – "they had been with Jesus." Jesus' disciples could not help but tell, even if they were strictly forbidden to preach in His name. The prospect of persecution and death did not deter them at all from proclaiming Him. Many were martyred for Jesus. And their death was not in vain. Their names may not be included in the "hall of faith" in the Book of Hebrews, but their names are securely written in the Lamb's Book of Life. And they are now in eternal joyous fellowship with Jesus, the Son of God who defeated death and the grave.

As followers of Jesus now, the greatest news we have remains the same, that JESUS IS ALIVE! He is seated in glory at the right hand of the Father, in His rightful place of honor. He will soon descend to

the clouds and, in a twinkling of an eye, take His people with Him into heaven. And, He will come again to reign on earth as its rightful King!

May we be so bold as to proclaim Jesus just as the saints of the early church did. It is a given that His followers will face persecution and opposition. Jesus Himself said it. But these should not deter us from proclaiming the gospel, especially to our loved ones! And Jesus left for us a very compelling admonition –

"For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Mark 8:38

Prayer: Our loving King Jesus, who reigns forevermore as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we praise You for securing our eternity through Your death and sacrifice on the cross, for giving us the faith to believe in You for the salvation that You alone can provide. In Your Spirit's power, give us now the same passion and boldness to proclaim You to our family and friends, to everyone whom You will lead us to share your love and gospel. May You find us faithful in doing this until You take us home into glory. We pray this in Your Matchless Name, Amen. ✨

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