

Sermon Summary: "Earthly Actions Have Heavenly Consequences"

- Feast of Christ the King:
 - Reflection on All Saints' season, connecting Heaven and Earth, renewing both realms.
- Jesus as the King:
 - Kingship not obvious on Earth, despite being King of both realms.
 - Titles ('The Christ,' 'Son of God') attributed, yet Jesus didn't resemble a typical king.
- Actions Reflecting Kingship:
 - Jesus announced God's kingdom, issued new commandments, showed authority over various aspects (teaching, healing, nature).
 - Demonstrated a kingdom of Heaven on Earth.
- Differences Between Earthly & Heavenly Kingship:
 - Comparison to Rubik's clock: connected but not identical.
 - Earth and Heaven connected but showcase differences in perception and action.
- Gospel Reading Interpretation:
 - Son of Man revealed in glory, referencing acts of kindness towards the needy as acts towards the King.
 - Earthly actions towards others mirrored in Heaven; serving others is akin to serving Jesus.
- Christ the King's Presence:
 - King's presence often incognito; acknowledging his kingdom's existence within Earthly actions.
 - Recognising service to fellow humans as service to Jesus.
- Main point:
 - Earthly actions hold Heavenly consequences, often unrecognised.
 - Serving others equates to serving the King; neglecting those in need spurns the King.

Discussion Points / Points to Ponder:

1. Recognition of Kingship: How can we recognise Christ's presence in our daily interactions with others, especially when they're in need?
2. Earthly Actions, Heavenly Consequences: Share instances where a small action had a profound impact, realising later its significance.
3. Perception of Kingship: How does society's perception of a king contrast with the portrayal of Christ as a king in this sermon?
4. Service to Others: In what ways can we ensure our service to fellow humans reflects the values Christ exemplified in his teachings?
5. Hidden Kingship: Discuss instances where recognising Christ's presence was challenging or unexpected in everyday situations.
6. Responsibility and Consequences: Reflect on the responsibility tied to our actions, considering the consequences on both Earth and in Heaven.
7. Humility and Service: How does the concept of serving others align with humility, particularly concerning the acknowledgment of serving Christ Himself?

Alternative Questions:

1. How does the sermon interpret the concept of Christ the King and relate it to the season of All Saints? What insights does this perspective offer?
2. The sermon emphasises the dual nature of Jesus as King on both Earth and in Heaven. In what ways does the earthly kingship of Jesus differ from traditional notions of kingship, and how does this connect to his actions during his time on Earth?
3. The analogy of the Rubik's clock is used to describe the connection between Heaven and Earth. How effective is this analogy in conveying the idea that the two realms are connected but not identical? Are there other analogies or metaphors that could help illustrate this concept?
4. The gospel reading in the sermon focuses on the actions of feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming strangers, clothing the naked, and caring for the sick. How does the text challenge our understanding of serving Christ through these acts of kindness, especially when the righteous seem unaware of their service to the King?
5. The sermon suggests that Earthly actions have Heavenly consequences, even if those consequences are not always obvious. Can you think of personal experiences where you may have unknowingly served a greater purpose through seemingly ordinary actions?
6. The sermon concludes by emphasising the incognito nature of Christ the King, likening it to Shakespeare's Henry V on the night before Agincourt. How does this perspective influence the way we perceive and respond to the presence of Christ in our lives and in the lives of those around us?