

Word of Life Lutheran Brethren Church  
Community Group Bible Study – week of Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>  
Jesus our great King

Over the past couple of weeks we've considered how Jesus functions as our Prophet, convicting sin and proclaiming forgiveness, and how he earned that forgiveness for us as our Priest. He will continue to function in these roles throughout our lives, because we are sinners and will always need to be corrected and forgiven. As our Priest, Jesus humbly continues to serve sinners like you and me. He does this not because we are so good, but because He is so great! This leads us into Jesus' third office; Jesus is our King.

*Open with prayer as you begin. Pray specifically for the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind in order to understand God's Word.*

We live in a democratic republic. We elect people to office to represent us and our interests. We have a constitution that is supposed to limit the power of the people we elect, and if we don't like them we can vote them out of office (theoretically at least). It's hard for us to imagine a group of people who would desire a true monarchy with a truly powerful king.

The book of Judges records the sad history of Israel between the conquest of the promise land under Joshua and the establishment of the monarchy. A recurring theme throughout the book is this; "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit" (Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25). At Mt. Sinai God had made it clear that He alone would be their king, but the people refused to be led by God and desired to have a "real" king and be like the other people around them. As the people fell into sin God would raise up men and women called judges who would deliver the people, but they did not establish a permanent leadership. Samuel was the last of Israel's judges.

Read 1 Samuel 8:1-22b

Who were the people really rejecting by requesting a king?

What's wrong with a king? What's wrong with wanting to be like the people around them?

Read the description of the king that Samuel gave to the people in vv. 11-18. Does this sound like a good deal? Why would God allow this to happen and give the people what they asked for?

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Saul is the man that Samuel anoints as the first king of Israel and he becomes exactly what Samuel described to the people in the verses we read. Eventually he is rejected by God<sup>1</sup> and replaced with David. David is different from Saul, but not as different as we might expect. He is not perfect and his reign is not without conflict and war. But David's reign looks forward to a better king who would come from David's house.

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17

The prophecy deals directly with David's son Solomon, but there are parts of this passage that cannot be applied to Solomon and look forward to a greater fulfillment. Read Luke 1:26-33.

Why is Jesus able to fulfill the greater promise given to David?

Who is the authority in your life, Jesus or you? Do you think of Jesus as your good and loving King, or as your servant? Do you want to do His will or do you want Him to do your will? What might change in your life if Jesus truly functioned as your King?

Read Philippians 1:20-26

What did Paul recognize about Jesus? Whose will did he most desire to be done in his life?

Consider the following questions:

Is Jesus a good king or a bad king?

Do you believe that God's will is better than your own?

Who do you trust more, God or yourself?

Are you more concerned with your personal success or the success of the Gospel?

Who is the real King in your life?

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<sup>1</sup> Read more about King Saul and King David in 1 Samuel 9 – 31 and 2 Samuel.

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If you find these questions to be convicting, then we have come full circle in this series. You have just listened to the Prophetic voice of Jesus and he has revealed the sin of pride in your life. Give thanks for the fact that Jesus is also your Priest who has made full satisfaction for all of your sins through his death on the cross. You are now free to serve Him with a clean heart, not because we have to, but because we get to. Serving Jesus as our King becomes a joyful task for the forgiven believer.

*Close in prayer.*