

JESUS IS LORD: A REFLECTION ON THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING, NOVEMBER 21, 2021, YEAR B.

DANIEL 7:13-14; PSALM 93; APOCALYPSE 1; JOHN 18:33-37

Grace and peace to you my dear brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Today is the last Sunday of liturgical year B and the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Christ the Universal King.

Last year, I preached on the history of this feast. This year, I want us to reflect on a title used many times for Jesus in the Bible. Today, we shall be reflecting on Jesus as the Lord.

What is the meaning of this and what is the implication? Jesus is Lord is not just a simple phrase but a life-changing reality.

Often, Jesus is referred to as Jesus Christ the Lord. Jesus is his human name, Christ is His office and Lord is His title.

The word Lord in Greek is kurios and it means master. In our own context, we would say boss.

To call someone Lord connotes two things - authority (power and control) and ownership. To say Jesus is Lord means He has control, power and authority over everything.

He is Lord over our lives whether we accept it or not. In fact, everyone, even atheists, will be forced to accept His Lordship in life or death. In the First Reading, Daniel saw that sovereignty, glory and kingship was conferred on Him and people of all nations and languages became His servant.

The Second Reading from the Book of the Apocalypse says He will be revealed as the ruler of the kings of the earth and to Him will be glory and power forever. Everyone will see Him as the Lord, even those who pierced Him and those who reject Him.

(Read also Philippians 2:6-11; Acts 10:36; Romans 10:12, 14:9).

Jesus is Lord over everything - over nature, over creation, over sickness, over principalities and powers, over Satan himself, over sin and over death.

To accept Jesus as Lord therefore means:

A. To allow Him to be master of our whole life. It is to surrender to Him and be willing to give Him control. It means surrendering to His will. It is no longer what I want but what He wants for my life. It is to be willing to serve Him anyhow, anywhere and at any cost. It means confessing that we belong no longer to ourselves but to Him (Ephesians 2:13 But now, you belong to Christ Jesus).

B. To accept Jesus as Lord means nobody is Lord in my life except Jesus. It means I won't deify anyone. The Greeks burnt incense to Caesar and proclaimed him as Lord. Some of us still allow people to control our lives, to rule us, to make us panic, to intimidate and terrify us.

Even the most powerful person in this world comes under the Lordship of Jesus (Romans 13:1, Proverbs 21:1).

When Nebuchadnezzar became too proud, God humbled him - he removed his dignity and power and he became like an animal and ate grasses like animals (Daniel 4:28-37).

Nobody should terrify us because no one is our Lord. Jesus is our Lord. This is why Jesus was not afraid before Pilate and instead Pilate was afraid of Him. If Jesus is our Lord, then no Pilate, no boss, no demon, not even the devil should intimidate us because our Lord is the Lord of lords.

C. To say Jesus is Lord means He is in control of every situation. No matter how terrible things may look, let us reassure ourselves on the fact that Jesus is Lord. Everything is under His control, so we shall not fear though the earth should rock and the mountains fall into the depth of the sea, though the waters rage and foam. Jesus

is on the throne and He is Lord. Our hope in every situation is that Jesus is still Lord - in good times and bad times, in sickness or health, in trials and triumphs, in scarcity or abundance. He will forever be the Lord.

Lord Jesus, I surrender my life totally to you as my Lord. I confess that I belong wholly to you. Teach me to accept and obey your will in all things. May you be the Lord in every area of my life and give me the serenity to face every situation knowing that you are in charge as the Lord and Master of every situation, Amen.

Happy feast of Christ the King. Yesu ni Bwana (Jesus is Lord).