

Sermon Title: The God Story – The King

Good morning!

I realize I may be a new face to some of you. I'm Dave Peters, the Group Life Pastor here at Cornerstone, and I'm truly grateful to be with you today.

A little about me—I'm originally from Southern Ontario. More recently, I was in the U.S. for school and serving as a pastor. My wife, daughter, and I relocated here in December, and we're thankful to call this community home.

If we haven't had the chance to meet yet, I'd love to change that. Feel free to say hi afterward—I look forward to connecting with you!

Our recent sermon series is called *The God Story*, where as a church we are "Finding our Way in God's Story."

As we explore the entire story of God, from Genesis to Revelation, to see the big picture of what God is doing through His Scriptures.

An encouragement is to pick up the resources yourself and follow along with your small group

Before I get to our message, I'm not sure if you knew but we had a bit of snow this last weekend.

We were excited to have Bethany bring us the message of the Son and we still are.

The Son is chapter 7 of *The God Story*.

We hear how God is working through unlikely people and places.

God sees Zechariah and Elizabeth in their weariness and blesses them with a child to prepare the way for Jesus.

He chooses Mary, a young, poor girl, to carry His Son, and meets Joseph's fears with an invitation to trust.

Jesus is born, grows, and lives fully human as God's rescue plan unfolds.

This is an invitation for us, ordinary people, to join God's extraordinary story as part of His family.

Don't miss this opportunity and you can find it here

Moving us into Chapter 8 The King.

There is a promise from God to David that in his lineage an enduring kingdom

Psalm 89:35-36 (NIV)

³⁵ Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness—

and I will not lie to David—

³⁶ that his line will continue forever

and his throne endure before me like the sun;

This promise of lineage, is the opening pages of the Gospel of Matthew where a promise is being realized that the true King is here in the form of Jesus

Growing up in Canada, Queen Elizabeth was a constant presence—her image was everywhere especially our money.

In May of 2023 was something happened which is new.

The changing of a monarch or the coronation of King Charles III

On one hand it is old, going back as far as monarchs have existed in human history but on the other hand something new was happening.

A new King had come.

The coronation was an extravagant, step-by-step ceremony:

- Recognition of the King
- Oath of the King
- Anointing of the King
- Debut of the King
- Crowning of the King

On the surface, these steps might seem tedious, but they represent a profound moment: the transfer of authority and the arrival of a new way of life.

In the Story of Scripture, a new king has come to Israel.

From the Garden of Eden, where everything first went wrong, God gave a promise—that through the seed of the woman, restoration would come.

Throughout the history of Israel—through the patriarchs, the judges, and the kings—there was a continual hope for a King who would make things right.

Yet, time and time again, each of these leaders fell short of fulfilling that hope.

The previous chapter ended with the baptism of Jesus, the moment when He was anointed by the Spirit to begin His ministry. Let's read Luke 3:21-22 (NIV):

We will be starting here in the Gospel of Luke chapter 3 but keep your thumb or apps open.

We will be moving through this gospel and others, using the NIV translation.

Luke 3:21-22 (NIV)

21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.

It's a powerful moment—the Spirit of God confirming and anointing Jesus for His mission.

Jesus, a carpenter from Nazareth, was anointed by God for a mission and Kingship.

Today, we will examine the Kingship of Jesus by exploring three key moments:

1. **Recognition of the King**
2. **Oath of the King**
3. **Debut of the King**

Jesus' baptism seems like the perfect beginning to a promising ministry.

How will the world, how will anyone recognize the King?

Will we recognize him because He is powerful like King David was in the old days in a powerful warrior?

Will he be wise and being in splendor like Solomon?

Will he be famous like our celebrities and always going viral?

Who will recognize the King first?

Luke 4 - Flips all our expectations upside down.

Instead of celebration and recognition

Luke 4:1-2 (NIV):

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them, he was hungry."

Jesus is at his weakest state: alone in the wilderness, hungry, and hounded by the enemy himself.

This moment reminds us of a painful pattern throughout Scripture:

- **Adam and Eve** failed in the Garden.
- **Moses** failed in the wilderness.
- **David** failed with Bathsheba and his family.
- **Solomon**, despite his wisdom, failed in his marriages and worship.

Every king and leader before Jesus had fallen to temptation.

What should be the celebration and recognition of the King is now the temptation of the King.

The biblical idea of **temptation** isn't seduction; temptation either reveals someone's quality or reveals their weaknesses.

In Luke 4, Jesus faces three temptations, each revealing humanity's tendency to drift from God's authority.

As we explore, Could this be where we are tempted?

Luke 4:3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

The first temptation is finding our identity in Pleasure and Provision

The devil tempts Jesus to use His divine power to satisfy His own hunger.

To becoming one's own provider rather than trusting God to provide

This may show up for us like:

- I am what I earn
- My work and grades define me
- My identity are degrees I've earned, the university I'm going to, the salary I have, and the people I call friends.

Jesus' temptation wasn't about His ability to provide bread but about the motives behind using His power.

Are we using our power to serve ourselves or to serve God?

Jesus' victory shows us that true provision comes from trusting God

Luke 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

If Jesus had responded to temptation in His divine nature by doing a miracle, there would have been no help here for you and me.

Jesus born into our world to live as a human being, to be hungry and tired, misunderstood and hurt, as we all have been.

He met every temptation as a human, and in His victory,

He showed us the possibility that we will win victory too.

Jesus rejects finding identity and satisfaction in physical provision alone.

But Satan is not done.

Luke 4:5-7: ⁵The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷If you worship me, it will all be yours."

Ambition and shortcuts—justifying ends by any means necessary.

The devil offers Jesus the power and splendor of the Kingdom without the cross.

All the power, none of the suffering.

Jesus has all authority and splendor, but it's not yet recognized.

Right now, right here, He is an unknown carpenter from Nazareth.

What shortcuts do we take in life?

- Do we compromise our values for success?
- Get rich quick approach to finances, or spend our way into success?
- Success will be found

Jesus will not sacrifice his character for the ease of the moment.

Satan though has one more trick, and this is the one I find most difficult.

Approval.

Luke 4:9 "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here."

What's being said "Fine Jesus, you claim from your anointing that you are the Son of God.

Prove it.”

Prove yourself, show the world how to recognize you, be recognized in His Power and position.

Find your approval in either the Expectation of other, in a never-ending treadmill of changing bosses, friends, partners, and parental expectations.

Or a Projection of Self. Find our approval by projecting a quality of ourselves to be approved or challenged.

Find my approval in work, pride, sexuality, relationship, aptitudes, heritage, and on and on the list goes

Jesus responds neither with expectations of others nor projection of self but says:

Luke 4:12: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Jesus was confident of the fact that God was with Him and that the Father’s plan and timing were perfect.

Humanity still had to catch up, but the enemy certainly knew who the King was.

Jesus shows us that we don’t need to seek validation from others because he found his validation in his identity with God.

As Jesus trusted in God’s plan the next step came The Oath of the King, our second part of the coronation world; is where the king declares his oath before the kingdom

For King Charles it was an Oath to govern, rule and preserve the English Kingdom and Church of England.

Jesus’ goes a bit like this:

**Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,**

His calling came from true authority: what God called him to do,

The Messiah the Christ is here.

He is anointed to Establish His Kingdom.

He is recognized as King by the supernatural

He has declared his Oath

Now, Jesus starts his Debut of the King or beginning His Kingdom by establishing the Kingdom of Heaven.

“Defined simply, the kingdom of God is the place where God is acknowledged as King; where God’s will and God’s ways are realized. Or another way to put it is, the kingdom of God will always look like King Jesus.” *The God Story* p. 140

The kingdom without the King is impossible, and trying to make it possible by enjoying the benefits without the Benefactor will always leave a person hollow.

A new way that does not focus on the powerful but the meek, not the vengeful but the merciful, not the rich but the poor in spirit.

The beauty of the beatitudes in Matthew 5 is that it shows an upside-down kingdom.

Jesus brought a kingdom where he not only established Himself as King but a new way of life

One in which all the assumed ways of being powerful or winners are not the way of His Kingdom.

But the amazing thing about what Jesus does in His Kingdom how he grows it.

How do most kingdoms grow?

Earthly kingdoms are built through conquest and power, Jesus grows His Kingdom through family and community.

Matt 4:18-19 ^{“18} **As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.**

Jesus could have chosen the scribes, the seminarians, the teachers but his first choice and were societies last.

Jesus moved to the ordinary, the fishermen, the workers, the non-educated.

Jesus made room for those who society and the earthly kingdoms were rejecting.

Jesus chooses the underwhelming to overwhelm this world.

Despite cultural taboos whether fisherman, tax-collectors, women, or the forgotten people. These are the people Jesus said...

¹⁹ **“Come, follow me,”**

Jesus empowers these disciples to carry His authority:

They followed him so that they could become like Him.

That’s what a disciple is, a person:

- Who hears from God,
- Orients their life in their hearing,
- Helps others do the same.

Discipleship is BEING with Jesus to LEARN from Jesus how to BECOME like Jesus.

Before the disciples believed in Jesus, Jesus believed in them by calling them to himself.

And He does the same with us

He calls us into his Kingdom family, not because we earned it but because He cares for us

The King has all the power but Jesus refuses to do life in the kingdom alone

John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

The kingdom isn’t made for a celebrity, it’s made for community of disciples who know their king.

Calling ordinary people into His mission.

Many want the power, benefits, and authority of the King and His Kingdom.

But there is another part of our Coronation image, the Crown.

This is the moment where the King is crowned in all his glory and raised up to his throne.

Our King doesn’t get a crown of gold but a crown of thorns.

Not being raised up on a throne but raised up on a cross as he is crucified.

Everyone wants a King like Jesus, but I don't know of any who want to die like Jesus.

The King demonstrates to us the paradox of being in his kingdom.

Luke 9:24 “For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.”

To save our lives, we must surrender our lives.

We must give up and surrender our ways to follow the King's way.

The good news: Jesus' sacrifice opened the way for us to live in Kingdom community and walk in the authority of His love.

We don't have to strive, bargain, or earn our way into this Kingdom.

The King has already paid the price.

The question for us, will we let him pay the price or try to earn our salvation outside of him.

Whether that is a first-time question for you, or you've heard it a thousand times, our opportunity is to reorient ourselves to find our story in God's story.

If you haven't accepted Jesus as your King, meaning he is ruler over your life and heart,

Don't wait.

There is no day like today to find your way back to Jesus.

No one ever really thought the prophetic words from Adam, Moses, David, Isaiah would come as a suffering servant.

No one really imagined that the kingdom of God would come through a Roman cross.

And now we are called—to recognize our King, take up His Oath of good news to the lost and find our hope not in earthly kingdoms but in His Kingdom.