

"This is the King of the Jews."

The Gospel this Sunday invites us to raise our eyes to the cross on which Christ is in agony on Calvary. Here we see the Good Shepherd giving up his life for his flock. Over His head is the sign that reads, INRI – (Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum) a Latin transcription for “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

To understand the Lord Jesus Christ as King, we reflect on His words in answer to the interrogation of Pilate: “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my Kingdom is not from the world. (Jn 18:36)

Normally, we do not associate powerful personalities with love; but Jesus, being God (cf. second reading), is not only all-powerful, He is also most loving. He loves every one of us. Indeed, He loves even people we think do not deserve to be loved. Jesus loves us so much that He became poor so that we might share in His divine riches (2 Cor. 8:9). What is more? He sacrificed His very life for us: “for greater love has no man than to lay down his life for his friends” ([John 15:13](#)). **We should live in the Kingdom now with holiness and we should be witnesses to the charity that testifies the authenticity of faith and hope.**

Again, because of His great love for us, He has prepared for each of us a reward (heaven) which is greater than the service we render Him. Thus, when He comes again, He does so bring reward for those whose service has pleased Him. How do we please Jesus? By making Jesus the King of our personal and daily lives here on earth. When we allow Jesus to rule our personal lives every day we will not be afraid of meeting Him on the last day; rather, we will be eager to meet Him, whom we please on daily basis.

How do we make Him the King of our personal lives every day? By faith and action. What kind of faith? Faith in the Father, in Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, and in what Jesus has taught us about eternal life (John 14:1-6, 15-16; 17:2-3) – a faith which influences our actions. What kind of actions? Matt. 25:31-46 tells us the sort of actions Jesus our King expects of us:

* To feed the hungry;

- * To give drink to the thirsty;
- * To care for the stranger;
- * To cloth the naked;
- * To care for the sick; and
- * To visit the imprisoned.

We please our King by these six actions and similar ones. May we always be eager to help the needy. And may every help we give put a smile, not just on the face of the beneficiary, but also on the face of the King of kings. Amen!