



## Christ as King- April 5

### Discussion Guide

#### Face the Issue:

Welcome to Holy Week!

This past Sunday, Brian shared with us the importance of recognizing that Jesus is King. That is what Palm Sunday is all about. On that Sunday, nearly 2000 years ago, the people of Jerusalem greeted Jesus as their king as he rode into town.

Today, many of us say with our mouths that Jesus is King. In fact, Jesus continues to make the lists of the most popular or most influential people of all time. Even those who don't call themselves Christians regard Jesus as one of the wisest teachers and most loving leaders the world has ever known. He is still making the covers of magazines and being talked about with a popularity like no other person who has walked this earth.

But is He your King? As Brian said, when we make Jesus our King, there should be a distinct change in us. If Jesus is your King, you have to listen to Him and truly listening to His words will challenge you, it will humble you, it will many times shame you, and it requires you to change. You cannot be on the fence.

That is why these same people that on Sunday were saying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" were saying on Friday, "Crucify Him!". They did not want to hear what He had to say. They really did not want Him to be their King.

Jesus was much more than meek and mild. He was more than a poetic philosopher. Jesus was the Light of Heaven hitting a darkened earth. He made claims and demands that left people speechless and infuriated. He uncovered realities that others sought to bury. He broke barriers and tore down walls no one else had the nerve to assault. He called for the utter dismantling of the way things were and the new creation of something so much better. Jesus was not politically correct. He was not religiously pious. He was not socially tame.

This King demands that we get off the fence.

*Do you see Jesus as a radical who wants to dismantle things in your life and recreate you? Why or why not?*

*What are some ways He has challenged you?*

*In what ways do you think Jesus may want you to get off the fence concerning Him?*

#### Into the Word

**Read Matthew 12:22–32.**

In his book, \$3 Worth of God, Wilbur Rees wrote, “I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please—not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep, but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk or a snooze in the sunshine. I don’t want enough of him to make me love a black man or pick beets with a migrant worker. I want ecstasy, not transformation; I want the warmth of a womb, not a new birth. I want a pound of the Eternal in a paper sack. I’d like to buy just \$3 worth of God, please.”

If Jesus is truly our King, we understand that He doesn’t want our half heartedness. He demands, as King, that we get off the fence. A religious leader can build quite a following by focusing on just a few aspects of being a disciple and not challenging us to submit completely to our King.

*What does Jesus mean when He says that those who are not with Him are against him (Matthew 12:30)?  
What does it mean to be with Him?*

*How does Matthew 12:22–32 demonstrate that Jesus is repelled by fence walkers?*

*In what ways have you just wanted “\$3 worth of God”?*

*Explain how Jesus might want you off the fence in each of the following areas of your life:*

- *Relationships*
- *Job*
- *Finances*
- *Habits*

### **Apply The Word**

Jesus described life with God in terms of leaving parents, getting out of safe boats, dropping nets, selling possessions, and denying self. In these statements, He is not saying there’s something wrong with those things. Jesus isn’t against family or safety or possessions or self. He is simply questioning whether we’re going to define and pursue these values in the world’s way or the kingdom’s way. He is asking: Where are you putting your feet down? Who and what do you really love? What’s the ground you’re planting in? What sort of fruit is it producing? Are you still trying to walk the fence?

### **Read Hebrews 12:1–2.**

*What kind of sin tangles you up in your race to make Jesus your King?*

*In what practical ways can we “fix our eyes on Jesus” in order to truly do what He asks us to do?*

*What was the joy set before Jesus that motivated him to endure the cross?*

*Which of the following spiritual disciplines would you most like to implement? Try to pick just one.*

- *Regular prayer*
- *Regular reading, study, or memorization of Scripture*
- *Fasting*
- *Tithing*
- *Other*

*How could you begin to make that practice part of your life?*