

Sermon Title: Traditions mean something

2020 taught us a lot of things, but one of the things that I learned is that traditions are very important to people and to families.

List some of your favorite traditions for any time of the year:

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But the best traditions have a meaning behind them.

John 12:12-15

What a picture this passage paints for us!

- Large crowds of people shout hosanna which means “save me!”
- Zechariah 9:9, John tells us that Jesus fulfills this prophecy
- The old Roman tradition was on the forefront of the people’s minds.
  - Anytime a long war or campaign ended in peace, the conquering hero or the emperor would return to Rome and enter triumphantly through the gates.
  - Jesus’s triumphal entry was a little different, more in his style.

Another tradition that we need to talk about today goes along with our sermon series, decorating the Easter tree of the cross.

John 18:33-38, 19:19-22

Pilate doesn’t believe that Jesus is guilty of anything, especially not anything that should cost him his life. But he was powerless to the mob of people who wanted Jesus dead.

The second tradition we will be talking about this morning is the simple tradition of the Roman Empire, that whatever the charge against the condemned, that was written on the cross also.

- Jesus’ charge read “King of the Jews” even though he never admitted that.

Both of these Roman traditions should lead us to one conclusion: that Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, is King of King and Lord of Lords.

Philippians 2:9-11, Ephesians 1: 19-22

That leads me to my big question for all of us this morning, and each one of us needs to answer honestly and only for ourselves, but who is your king?

Here are some questions to ask yourself to identify who the king of your life really is:

1. What are you letting into your mind?
2. Who are you letting be around you?
3. What is coming out of you?

The biggest factors of who is your king are where are you spending your time, your energy, and your money; those three things should give you a pretty good idea of who your king is.

- maybe the answer to who is your king, is you.

Challenges:

- 1) Take some time to fact check who your king really is.
  - a. Be honest with yourself and with others.
- 2) If Jesus isn’t the King of your life right now, what is 1 thing that you can do that put him back into his rightful place.
  - a. There are some great challenges in the Holy Week map to give you some ideas.

Jesus himself had the opportunity to prove who his king was when Satan was tempting him in the desert.

Matthew 4:8-10

Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms in the world and their glory, but little did he know that Jesus already was the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

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