

Coronation
John 18:1-19:16
Bethany Assembly of God
5/12/2024

Central Proposition: You should recognize your King.

Introduction

We're near the end of the Gospel of John now and in John 18:1-19:6, Jesus is arrested, tried, and sentenced to death by crucifixion. The people in the story all have a hard time recognizing Jesus in a variety of ways. Those who come to arrest Jesus couldn't do it without aid because it was dark. The religious leaders refuse to recognize His authority and innocence. Peter is recognized as one of Jesus' disciples, but refuses to recognize Jesus himself. Pilate doesn't believe that Jesus is guilty, but doesn't recognize the claim to truth Jesus is making. And after Jesus is beaten and mocked for the charge against Him, that He claims to be the King of the Jews, He is presented to the crowd wearing a crown of thorns and a purple robe, but no one can recognize in that state that He is indeed the King of the Jews and that this is the hour of His coronation. The story of Jesus' arrest challenges us to recognize our King when He is unrecognizable to the world. The way that Jesus responds to the cowardice, fear, jealousy, and cruelty around Him point out some aspects of what it means to recognize Jesus as our King.

1. You must not fight with the weapons of the dark. See John 18:36; Ephesians 6:12; Romans 12:19-21. It's not surprising that when the Jewish leaders sent men to arrest Jesus, it was at night. They wanted to do away with Him as quietly as possible in a way that wouldn't attract too much attention. Jesus' kingdom is still not of this world and so, we cannot fight for His kingdom with the weapons of this world. We must love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us and our weapons must be righteousness, truth, peace, faith, a transformed mind, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and prayer. Do you recognize your King? Then you must learn to fight like Him and not with the weapons of darkness.

2. You must not fear the dark. See John 18:4; John 19:11; John 1:5. My favorite theme that John highlights in the story is Jesus' power and poise. Jesus was never out of control. When Jesus is questioned by the priests and Jewish leaders, He neither cowers nor tries to preserve Himself; He knows that His hour has come. We know that this was hard for Jesus. The other Gospel writers record the bitter prayer of Gethsemane where Jesus asks the Father to take the cup of suffering from Him, but says, "*Yet not my will, but yours be done.*" But Jesus was not afraid of the dark. He stood up to it and we must get over our fear of the dark. He has shown us that there is no need to fear. Do what it will, the dark cannot win.

Conclusion

Do you recognize your King in the moments of everyday living? When you have the opportunity to take revenge, do you recognize Him? When you're tempted to protect yourself with a lie, do you recognize Him? When you're tempted to despair, do you recognize Him? When you're afraid of what standing for Him might mean, will you recognize Him? To the world, our King is unrecognizable because He doesn't look

like any picture of power they have ever seen. I want to call on you to turn away from your past, confess your sin against God, believe in Jesus, and recognize that He is King; He is Lord.