

Lenten Theme: Symbols of the Cross—Lord of Life, Westfield, IN 3/17/04

Title: “Jesus reigns for us”

Text: Matthew 27: 27-31

Intro.: Ills.: Crown of Thorns bush

Theme: Jesus was never out of control in his Passion but reigned as King over sin and death so that He could become for us the King of life.

The rule of sin and death in the world seems to be unstoppable

- Jesus was manhandled and mocked as king by those who would not submit
 1. Describe the humiliation of mocking (robe on torn back; piercing thorns; rod crush)
 2. **Ills.: Passion not Prejudice**
- We feel helpless when we experience suffering/persecution as citizens of His Kingdom
 3. Assaulted and insulted by diminishing portrays of Christianity and righteousness
 1. Who will stop this? Who will keep us/children from succumbing to this?
 4. We heap sin upon sin by taking matters into our own hands to correct by power
 5. *Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters." The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill." Psalm 2:1-6*

Every knee shall bow to Jesus, the King

- We bow before the King of our salvation
 6. Sought out when we did not seek him
 1. *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Col. 1:13-14*
 2. Have you relinquished control of your life and heart to his sovereign reign/rule?
 3. *"Turn to me and be saved, for I am God, and there is no other. Isaiah 45:22*
 7. In humble praise of the one who gave it all up for us
 1. *"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise! To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever!" Rev.5:12-13*
- The wicked of the world shall bow in ultimate submission
 1. **There is a day of reckoning** *Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. Rev. 1:7*
 2. **Jesus shall reign for his glory and his Church** *At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philip. 2:10-11*
 3. **There is hope and rest for us now** *They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed. Rev. 6:10-11*

Passion, Not Prejudice by Sed Contra and Deal Hudson

It was not that long ago when Andres Serrano was dipping a crucifix in urine to the delight of the *New York Times* and the anti-Christian elites of the art world. Christians who were offended at such vulgarity on display in an exhibit funded by public dollars were accused of censorship and the Philistine refusal of artistic license. Indeed it has been a virtual calling card of the left to place unflattering portrayals of Christianity in the arts beyond criticism. How, they ask, can the imagination of the artist be measured by the traditional religious creeds? Copyright Crisis Magazine © 2001