

UHPC WORSHIP... FINAL SERMON—NOVEMBER 24, 2019

SERMON TOPIC: "SHEPHERD AND KING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS"

How can a shepherd be a king? What is it about a shepherd that God finds so useful in a king or in other leaders? For one thing the life of a shepherd can be quite rustic and tough. It is not necessarily a comfortable life trying to keep flocks or cattle in the straight and narrow path. It is a great responsibility to ensure that the flock is fed, sheltered, and cared for if they become sick. Shepherds must be patient, wise, and discerning to know what the weather and fodder will be like in certain places, so they know when to move the flock from one pasture to another. They must also know how to fearlessly slay lions and bears and kill giants like David did to Goliath. David also had a creative side for music and dancing, worship, meditation and prayer with strong faith in Jehovah God. We see in Scripture also Moses leaving the princely life in Pharaoh's palace to become a shepherd in Jethro's camp after he had killed a man in Egypt who was beating a Hebrew slave. Then forty years later he was called to become a deliverer of the Hebrews enslaved in Egypt. We see David, who was a mere shepherd boy, anointed by Samuel to become king in Saul's place after a while, and to rule over Israel. We also see the prophet Amos being called from his cattle farm to speak a message to the people of Israel. THERE SEEMS TO BE CERTAIN QUALITIES DEVELOPED IN A SHEPHERD THAT GOD DEEMS NECESSARY FOR LEADERS TO HAVE. SOME OF THESE ARE: COMMITMENT, DEDICATION, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, LOVE, STRENGTH, COURAGE, FEARLESSNESS, DECISIVENESS, etc. ...

As we look at the Scriptures for today... CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY, we hear of Jesus being called both "Shepherd and King of Righteousness." Anyone who knows even a little about Jesus, certainly will concur that He has/had all of these qualities mentioned above and more. When we look/listen to Luke 1: 68-75, we hear Jesus being called: --" HORN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS." (Horn indicates strength and power in uprightness) --He is referred to as "Fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham." (This points to the New Covenant of Salvation by Grace through faith and not by works of the Law alone) --He is called "Redeemer"...(This means He would purchase and take back that which was lost) He is also referred to as a "Fearless Servant of righteousness." (Servant, not abuser or oppressor.)

In Luke 23: 33-38 Jesus is crucified as the perfect, final, and sacrificial Lamb of God. This was prophesied hundreds of years before His entrance into the world in flesh by the Prophet Isaiah. David also spoke of Him in Psalm 69:22 as the Messiah who would be given gall and vinegar to drink to quench His thirst. His tormentors did just that as He hung on the Cross.

Paul wrote of Jesus in Colossians 1: 15-23 as: –THE VISIBLE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD –CREATOR WITH THE FATHER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT –because for Him and by Him all things were created and held together, visible and invisible... thrones, dominions, powers, and principalities. He was called –“HEAD OF THE CHURCH, THE BODY.” He is “THE FULLNESS OF THE MANIFESTION OF GOD IN FLESH ON EARTH, WHO CAME TO RECONCILE HUMANITY TO THEIR HEAVENLY FATHER. IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS HE HAD TO SUFFER IN THE FLESH AND SHED HIS BLOOD TO ATONE FOR OUR SINS, TO PRESENT US FAULTLESS BEFORE THE THRONE OF GRACE AND BLAMELESS BEFORE JEHOVAH GOD/ ABBA-FATHER. Jesus had to do this on our behalf so that through faith we might have access in His name to approach the Almighty Creator Jehovah our God, because the pure and Holy Father cannot look upon sin. So, He took our sins upon Himself and washed them away by His precious Blood. Therefore, we who believe in Him may approach the Father in His name and be accepted.

IN JEREMIAH 23 Jesus is called—“THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS” who will reconcile all who were exiled spiritually as well as geographically. He would calm their/our fears and prosper their/our lives once more. Jesus is identified as a “Branch of David” (He was of the lineage of David... the earthly Shepherd / King) He would execute righteous justice, and bring peace, security, and safety to His people. He would feed and shepherd them. HE WOULD BE CALLED THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

His righteousness would become our righteousness when we cast our lot with Him in faith and believe in His immaculate conception, His incarnation and birth, His life, teachings, crucifixion, burial, resurrection, and ascension. When we repent of our sins and invite Him to come and abide in us and with us for the rest of our days, then we become partakers of His righteousness and learn to follow His ways from now unto eternity. He becomes our Lord and Savior, He gives us His Holy Spirit to be our help, teacher, intercessor, and guide in our life’s journey. Jesus...YESHUA HA-MESSIACH, is ascended and seated at the right hand of Majesty making intercession for His children who live, worship, pray, and wait for His return to judge the living and the dead.

ON THIS “CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY,” LET US REMIND OURSELVES OF WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT OUR SAVIOR AND OUR SALVATION:

--We believe in His resurrection.

--We believe He conquered death.

--We believe in His second coming to separate the sheep from the goats and the wheat from the chaff.

So, as we come to close out the Liturgical Year once more and to continue into the new cycle as Advent begins, we give thanks that God has been faithful to us. Therefore, we exalt Christ as King Supreme and

Shepherd par excellence! --We acknowledge that He fulfilled all the prophecies of the Old Testament that spoke of Him and is the authentic promised Messiah. (DO WE BELIEVE THIS?)

--We believe He is the Only Begotten Son of the Most- High God...Jehovah, who identified Him by voice out of Heaven saying: "This is my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" as He was baptized by John at the River Jordan. (DO WE BELIEVE THIS?)

--We believe that the Heavenly Father spoke out of heaven at His Transfiguration on the top of Mt. Tabor saying: "This is my Beloved Son; Hear ye Him!" (DO WE BELIEVE THIS?)

--We believe Peter, James, and John bore witness of the appearance of Moses and Elijah who spoke to Him about his final work to be accomplished at Jerusalem to establish the plan of Salvation for the world. (DO WE BELIEVE THIS?)

--We believe that these disciples fell to the ground under the power of the presence of the Glory of God. (DO WE BELIEVE THIS?)

--We believe that Peter was in so much shock that he decided they should make them tabernacles there on the mountain to dwell in. (DO WE BELIEVE THIS?)

--We believe Jesus suffered, bled, and died, was buried, and rose from the dead. He ascended and will come again. (DO WE BELIEVE THIS?)

--We believe all who call upon His name, confess and repent of their sins, ask for mercy and forgiveness shall be saved. (DO WE BELIEVE?)

--We believe those who invite Him to abide in their lives forever and to become their Lord and Savior shall receive LIFE ABUNDANT AND LIFE ETERNAL. (DO WE BELIEVE THIS?)

--We believe these have escaped hell, death, and the grave and are welcomed into the Kingdom of God and into God's marvelous light. (DO WE BELIEVE?)

--We believe their / our reconciliation begins and we have peace with God. ---But those who reject Christ remain separated from God and are under the wrath of God without mercy and without hope. (DO WE BELIEVE THIS?)

Therefore, let us reflect and decide if we, or anyone we know have strayed. It is a good time to re-commit and the return to the table, to the Word, to worship, and to restoration. If anyone has never committed and taken the steps mentioned before, then now is a good time to confess and repent with our lips and from the heart. Then follow through with baptism. Commit to studying Christ, get to know Him and His ways. Practice His love, and remain in His Body now, always and forever. FOR HE IS THE WAY TO HEAVEN. HE IS THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE. NO ONE ENTERS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN EXCEPT THROUGH THE GATE OPENED BY THE GOOD SHEPHERD...STRONG, PERSISTENT, WISE, COURAGEOUS, PATIENT---CHRIST JESUS!, ... HE IS THE KING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IN WHOM WE HAVE OUR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH.

WE TAKE THIS BY FAITH AND WE TRUST THE TESTIMONIES OF ALL THE WITNESSES OF HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS OF YEARS that He is "the Beginning and the End." ---He is the Light that enlightens every human soul. ---He is" the Word Made Flesh." He is "the Messiah", the "Savior" of every human soul who accepts Him ---Jesus is the" King of all kings", and the "Lord of lords". AND SO MUCH MORE. I

INVITE ALL WHO HUNGER AND THIRST TO COME AND ABIDE WITH AND IN HIM FOR HE IS REALLY COMING BACK AGAIN TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD. COME INTO THE ARK OF SAFETY AND STAY ROOTED AND GROUNDED THERE. JESUS WILL KEEP THOSE WHO DESIRE TO BE KEPT. WE ARE NOT LEFT ON OUR OWN, HE GIVES US THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HIS OWN PERSONAL INTERCESSION.

REMEMBER, THAT GOD IS NOT OUT TO GET US. GOD WANTS TO SAVE AND TO SECURE US IN HIS BLESSED PEACE, LOVE, JOY, AND HOPE. GOD WANTS US TO HAVE A FUTURE AND A HOPE WITH HIM. GOD WANTS US TO LEARN HOW TO HAVE ETERNAL AND ABUNDANT LIFE FOREVER IN HIS PRESENCE.

May we all find something in this sermon today to take a way and keep with us all our days. But more than that, I trust that you will tell somebody about the God we serve through faith in the Son, Jesus the Christ. For we overcome by the Blood of the Lamb and by the Power of Our Testimony. Let us try to tell even one person about the King of Righteousness who is like a Shepherd to His flock. KEEP THIS IN MIND: "JESUS IS THE REAL DEAL."

Finally, the Prophet Hosea tells us this: "SOW RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR YOURSELVES; REAP THE FRUITS OF GOODNESS; BREAK FOR YOURSELVES FRESH GROUND OF SEEKING THE LORD..."

AMEN,

Rev. Brenda R. Berry/ Pastor-Moderator

Univ. Hts. Presby. Chr.