

How can this group support you in prayer this coming week?



Danny Hall • October 7, 2012
Acts 3:11-26

The Power of His Name

The Purpose of His Coming

His Place in the Story

If you would like to become a part of a small group please contact
the church office at 925-846-6622 or info@vcclive.org.



Overview

This series explores the gospel, what it is and what its implications are. In this first message we want to focus on Jesus as King. It is important to start with him as the central figure of the gospel. To do this we are looking at one of the early articulations of who he is from a sermon of Peter's in Acts 3. These early sermons illustrate for us how the disciples understood who Jesus was and how Jesus fits into and fulfills the larger narrative of the Bible's story.

We see several key themes emerge, but perhaps the most important thing to consider is the declaration that Jesus is the Christ and that he is Lord. The title Christ points to Jesus as the rightful heir to David's throne, the long awaited and promised Messiah. He is the anointed King of Israel. The title Lord declares that he is the rightful ruler of all nations and peoples, even the whole of creation. The announcement that Jesus is Lord meant among other things, that Caesar is not.

Jesus is also portrayed by Peter as a saving king. While his role as savior is not the totality of his kingship, it is indeed a crucial aspect of it. This is key in our understanding of the gospel of Christ. Peter reminds us of some of the tremendous blessings that come because of who Jesus is and what he has done for us.

Engaging with each other

1. When you think of a king, what thoughts or what images come to mind?
2. How has our American history and culture impacted our response to the idea of being ruled by a king?

Engaging with the Bible

1. What comes to mind when you think of the word "gospel"?

2. In what contexts do you refer to Jesus as "Lord" or "Christ"? What is the biblical meaning of these two titles and what do they imply about Jesus?
3. Read verses 19-21. Identify the three amazing things that come out of what Christ has done. Why do you think Peter chose to emphasize these three and how are they interrelated?
4. Verses 22-26 contain a series of Old Testament references. Why is this important to our understanding of the gospel?

Engaging with our lives

1. Discuss the implications of Jesus as King and Lord for how you live your life. Consider your home life? Your work life? Your relationships with friends and neighbors? Your interactions with those who do not trust Christ?
2. In John 15 Jesus gives us a beautiful metaphor of our intimate and dependent relationship with him. He emphasizes the importance of remaining in his love and obeying him. How do these intertwined commands relate to Jesus as King and Savior?
3. Do you find it hard to trust Christ as a King? What might be some barriers for you to embrace Jesus as your King? How might you overcome those barriers?