A Kingdom Greater Than We Imagine

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Matthew 25:31–46

There are some promises so extraordinary that we almost hesitate to believe them. Promises that seem too generous, too wonderful, too far beyond anything we could ever deserve. And yet, in today's Gospel, Jesus makes precisely such a promise. ***"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."*** Consider the enormity of those words. There is a Kingdom that God has been preparing for us, before the world began. Before the first sunrise, before the stars filled the heavens, before any of us took our first breath, God had already imagined an eternity in which we could share His life and His joy.

And today, on the Solemnity of Christ the King, we are reminded that this is not some distant, impossible dream. It is the very reason we were created. We were not created simply to work, raise families, grow old, and eventually disappear. We were created for eternity. We were created for a Kingdom. And not just any kingdom, but one that will never collapse, never disappoint, never be conquered, and never come to an end.

And there is something extraordinary about the way Jesus speaks of this Kingdom. Notice the word He uses. **Inherit**. An inheritance is not something we purchase. It is something we receive because we belong to a family. And through Baptism, that is precisely what we have become: sons and daughters of God, heirs to His Kingdom. What an extraordinary dignity we possess! We spend so much of our lives trying to prove our worth, earn recognition, establish ourselves, or become somebody important. And all the while, God is reminding us that our greatest dignity is not something we achieve. **It is something we have already received.**

But here is where today's Gospel becomes particularly beautiful. Jesus shows us what the life of His Kingdom looks like. It looks like feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, caring for the sick, and visiting the lonely. These are not merely charitable activities. They are glimpses of heaven breaking into the world. Every act of genuine Christian love allows something of God's eternal Kingdom to become visible here and now.

And perhaps that is what makes the Christian life so remarkable. We do not have to wait until death to begin participating in the Kingdom of Heaven. Through God's grace, we can begin living its life today. Heaven is not as distant as we sometimes imagine. Whenever the love of Christ finds its way through us into the life of another person, His Kingdom is already making itself known. And what may seem like a small moment to us can have an eternal significance in the eyes of God.

My friends, the Solemnity of Christ the King is not simply a celebration of who Jesus is. It is also a reminder of **who we are called to become.** We belong to a King whose **greatness is love**, whose **victory is the Cross**, and whose **promise is eternal life.** And one day, by His grace, we hope to hear the most beautiful invitation ever spoken: ***"Come, you that are blessed by my Father."*** Until that day, may we live with the confidence, joy, and generosity of people who know where we are going. We are not simply passing through this world. We are journeying toward a Kingdom that has been prepared for us … … from the beginning of time.