

PALM SUNDAY



GOSPEL: SAINT MATTHEW 21:1–9

The Kingship of Jesus Christ

22.1 First Point

Jesus Christ came to this earth to reign here, but not, says Saint Augustine, as other kings do, to raise tribute, enroll armies, and visibly do battle against his enemies, for Jesus Christ assures us that his kingdom is not of this world¹ but is to establish his reign within our souls, according to what he says in the holy Gospel, that his kingdom is within us.²

So that Jesus Christ may reign over your souls, you must pay him the tribute of your actions. All of them must be consecrated to him; in them there must be nothing that is not pleasing to him. They ought to have no other intention than to accomplish his holy will, which ought to direct all of them, so that there may be nothing human in them.

Because the reign of Jesus Christ is divine, all that has any connection with it must be either divine or divinized by the relationship that it has with Jesus Christ. The main purpose he had in this world was to accomplish his Father's will,³ as he declares in several passages in the Gospel.

He also wishes that you, who are his members and his servants, be united with him and have this same purpose in your actions. Examine whether this is what you intend to do.

22.2 Second Point

So that Jesus Christ may reign in your soul, you must wage war under his leadership against the enemies of your salvation, who are also his enemies. Because he wishes to establish his peace within you, a peace which, according to Saint Paul, ought to reign in your hearts,⁴ he must overcome—and you must overcome with him and by his help—anything that is able to be an obstacle, such as your passions and evil inclinations. You must eliminate within you the man of sin who in the past has reigned over you. Then you will deliver yourself from the shameful slavery to which sin has reduced you.⁵

Be disposed today, then, to receive Jesus Christ fully by abandoning yourself entirely to his guidance and by letting him reign over your whole interior life, so absolutely on his part and so dependently on yours that you may in truth say that it is no longer you who live but Jesus Christ who lives in you.⁶

22.3 Third Point

If you wish Jesus Christ to fight within you the enemies who want to keep him from reigning there, he must be able to raise an army of virtues that will equip your soul and enable him to be the complete master of your heart. You also need to fight valiantly under his standard, making use of the weapons he places in your hands.

You must, says Saint Paul, *be girded with the belt of truth and put on the breastplate of justice*, that is, a love for the duties of your state. You must take up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the fiery darts of the devil. Hope of salvation must serve as your helmet and the word of God as your sword.⁷ By such weapons, declares the same Saint Paul, the peace of Jesus Christ will truly reign in your hearts.⁸

1. Jn 18:36

4. Col 3:15

7. Eph 6:14–17

2. Lk 17:21

5. Rom 6:6

8. Col 3:15

3. Jn 6:38

6. Gal 2:20

