

April 5/6, 2025

"Different Kind of King"

Pastor Jeff Manion



**Beyond the
Weekend**

SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [Mark 15:1-20](#) | Different Kind of King

"Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate. "You have said so," Jesus replied. Mark 15:2

Standing trial before Roman governor Pontius Pilate, it is clear that Jesus is king. It is a point made repeatedly as Jesus heads closer to the cross. But Mark makes it obvious that Jesus is a different kind of king, a king who "did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" ([Mark 10:45](#)). This is in sharp contrast to Roman emperors who ruled through power and force by conquering others and taking captives. Jesus is the opposite. While other kings place people in captivity through power, Jesus sets people free by setting aside his power.

Our view of Jesus may not always match the kind of king he is. We may think of his kingdom as one of force and power. In this way, we are not so different from the Jews of Jesus's day. They wanted Jesus to take care of their big problem—Rome. We, too, may want Jesus to take care of our problems, but we often do not recognize that the biggest problem we have is sin. That's exactly what Jesus came to take care of. By setting aside his life, we can have eternal life and an abundant life that starts now.

TODAY: Pray this model prayer as a first step to seeing Jesus as he really is. "Father, help me see Jesus for the kind of king he actually is. I don't want to see him as I want him but as he really is. Help me to see Jesus as the king who loves me more than I can know. Amen."

Day 2 [Mark 15:1-5](#) | The Accusation

The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of." But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. Mark 15:3-5

Jesus is now at his real trial, the one that will determine his fate. His previous trial, before the religious leaders, was only a pretrial designed to fabricate charges they hoped would lead to his execution. The religious leaders don't want Jesus just sent away. They want him humiliated and killed. So, they repeat their accusation that Jesus is a king. This would get the quick attention of Rome, who is always on the lookout for revolutions that need to be quashed immediately. Jesus, by accepting the title "Son of (king) David" and riding into Jerusalem on a donkey to shouts of "Hosanna!" acts very king-like. Here, he gives Pilate a non-committal answer.

We might also ask, who is Jesus? We can have a lot of answers: a good teacher, a religious leader, a good person, a moral example to follow or someone we need to read but not necessarily follow. The real question we need to answer is: Do we see Jesus as just a nice person or the true king of heaven, the Son of God, the God-

man who came to die for our sins? Because seeing him for who he truly is requires giving him authority as the King and Lord of our lives.

TODAY: If you've never received Jesus as King and Lord of your life, today could be your day to make that decision. If you have, consider if you've allowed Jesus to rule over every part of your life. Then pray, thanking God for Jesus's kingship and the salvation from your sin that he offers.

Day 3 [Mark 15:6-15](#) | The Substitution

"Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. Mark 15:9-11

Jesus is not the only one in Roman captivity on this Friday morning. A man named Barabbas is also imprisoned. He was arrested for his part in a rebellion against the Roman government, an action that resulted in murder. In the Roman legal system, both insurrection and murder are capital offenses. Barabbas faces execution for his crimes. Yet, in an amazing twist, he is given life, and Jesus is sent to death. In the most real way, Barabbas experienced the prophecy in [Isaiah 53:5](#), "But he [Jesus] was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Jesus was the substitute for Barabbas, and he is ours too. His death brings our life. He's tossed out; we're invited in. He's ripped up; we're made whole. He is imprisoned; we are set free. He is alone; we are invited into community. Where he is, we should have been. What we deserved, he took for us. "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all" ([Isaiah 53:6](#)).

TODAY: Pray a prayer of gratitude for what Jesus has done for you on the cross. As a basis for your prayer, join Ada Bible Worship as they sing "[Name Above All Names](#)." These lyrics can get your gratitude started, "The perfect sacrifice, your body broken. As you restored to us what sin had stolen."

Day 4 [Mark 15:16-20](#) | Different Kind of Way

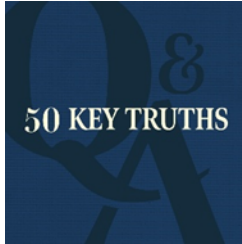
And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. Mark 15:20

Jesus's trials and crucifixion reveal the path to greatness comes through serving and sacrifice. Mark repeatedly highlights this theme. Jesus says, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" ([Mark 8:34](#)). The apostle Paul teaches the same in his letter to the church in Philippi: "And being found in appearance as a man, he [Jesus] humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross" ([Philippians 2:8](#)). It pleased God to exalt the humiliated one. He resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

We are to have the same attitude as Jesus, even when he was obedient to death on a humiliating Roman cross. However, we should avoid focusing only on what Jesus has done for us. While recognizing what Jesus did and thanking God for it is necessary and right, if this is all we do, we can miss what we are to do for him and others. Part of our response to God's love is to serve, sacrifice and even suffer. Our path to greatness is to be the same as how Jesus lived and died, in humility and servanthood.

TODAY: Complete transformation doesn't often happen overnight. Identify one area where you need to recognize Jesus's authority and yield to him today. It might be in your finances, your marriage, with your parents,

your work-life balance or serving in the church. Make a specific commitment to follow Jesus's example of humble service in that area. Yielding in one area often leads to growth in others as we follow Jesus's path of servanthood.



Day 5 [Genesis 1:26-31](#) | Question 14: Created in God's Image

Question: What does it mean that humans are created in God's image?

Answer: Being created in God's image means we have personhood, are relational and are meant to represent God on earth.

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27

Being made in God's image sets humanity apart from all other created beings. Humans alone bear the distinct honor of being created in God's image. The repetition in [Genesis 1:27](#) emphasizes the significance of this truth. This image-bearing isn't about physical appearance but about reflecting aspects of God's nature. Like God, humans possess intellect, will and emotions. Humanity is highly relational and made to live in community. People are moral creatures with consciences, and God gave people governance over creation as his stewards. Humans also have a spirit, meaning people can relate to God, who is spirit ([John 4:24](#)). This elevated status establishes the incredible dignity, value and worth of every human being, regardless of ability, ethnicity, age or circumstance.

Understanding our identity as image-bearers transforms how we view ourselves and others. We are not accidents or merely advanced animals but beings of immense significance created for a relationship with God and one another. This truth counters both pride and insecurity. We're neither self-made nor worthless but designed purposefully by God to reflect his character and represent him on earth. The image of God in each person establishes the foundation for how we treat others. Every human life is sacred and worthy of dignity because each person, however broken by sin, still bears God's image. When we grasp that we were created to reflect God's character, it motivates our growth in holiness and Christlikeness.

TODAY: Consider what it means to bear God's image in your daily life. How can you reflect his character in your interactions with others? Think of someone you struggle to value and remember they, too, bear God's image. Ask God to help you see them as he does. Learn more about being made in God's image in our [We Believe document](#).