

**November 22, 2015**

**Feast of Christ the King  
“My kingdom is not of this world”**

*“I caught the happy virus last night when I was out singing beneath the stars.  
It is remarkably contagious - So kiss me.”*  
(Hafiz, 14th Sufi Mystic in present day Iran)

**Feast of Christ the King**

Today is the Feast of Christ the King. It was established in 1925 to recognize the all-embracing authority of Christ. Thinking of Christ as King is not natural to us. It is not an authority we relate to. Perhaps a better language today would be, “*Christ, the First Idea of God,*” or “*Christ, the Purpose of the Universe.*” In either case, the intuition is that Christ names the union of the divine with the material in all things, as seen in the incarnation of Jesus.

**My Kingdom is not of this world**

We live in two kingdoms, the kingdom of the world, and the Kingdom of God. The two are opposites. The kingdom of the world doesn’t forgive, it blames; it doesn’t set free, it controls; it doesn’t restore, it punishes. The Kingdom of God doesn’t blame, it forgives; it doesn’t control, it sets free; it doesn’t punish, it restores. The world’s kingdom leads to competition, anger and turmoil; God’s Kingdom brings compassion, forgiveness and peace.

**Watching Jesus in God’s Kingdom**

So, the question is, how do we live in God’s Kingdom while finding ourselves in the world’s? There is no better place to start in answering this question than to watch Jesus, especially on Calvary. He knew fear and terror: “*No, let this cup pass from me!*” - “*My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*” And yet his response was not to blame or condemn; it was to forgive and restore. He kept his eyes on his Father and stayed on Calvary long enough to say, “*Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.*” He moved from the passion of fear and terror to the resurrection of peace and hope. He remained in the Kingdom of God.

**Watching Mary in God’s Kingdom**

We watch Mary. She knew fear and terror, watching her innocent Son being put to death. She just stood there at the foot of the cross, which in Hebrew culture was a sign of strength. Her response was not to blame or condemn; it was to forgive and restore. She kept her eyes on Jesus’ Father and stayed on Calvary long enough to say with her Son, “*Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.*” She moved from the passion of fear and terror to the resurrection of peace and hope. She remained in the Kingdom of God.

## Being in the Kingdom of God

We know fear and terror. It is all around us: “*Lord, save us!*” Our response must not be to blame or condemn. We want, like Jesus and Mary, to keep our eyes on Jesus’ Father and stay on our Calvarys long enough to say, “*Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.*” We seek to move from the passion of fear and terror to the resurrection of peace and hope. We choose to remain in the Kingdom of God.

### Fear and Terror are Signs of Spiritual Hunger

Living in the kingdom of the world is the result of Spirit Hunger. We’re used to thinking about Body Hunger, our built-in warning system that our bodies are in need of a Body Meal. But we’re not used to thinking about Spirit Hunger. Symptoms of Spirit Hunger are, *Anger, Pride, Deceit, Greed, Fear, Gluttony, Lust and Sloth*, our built-in warning system that our Spirit is in need of Spirit nourishment. These symptoms are our friends, they’re telling us what we need. We shouldn’t get so upset with them.

What nourishes your Spirit? We all have our favorite Spirit meals. Let us take out our Spirit menus and look them over. What are some of your favorite Spirit meals? Are they:

**Quiet.** Spend time alone, in the dark, not trying to think - plan - solve or forget anything. This can help your Spirit soften, open up, relax, forgive. This is feeding the Spirit.

**Sharing with another.** This helps lift the weight you’ve been carrying, remove the Isolation you’ve been experiencing, soften your discouragement, let go of the hurt you’ve been feeling. This is feeding the Spirit.

**Helping others.** This helps sharpen your awareness of the world around you, your sensitivity to the needs of others, your forgiving the failures of others, your compassion for the weakness of others. This is feeding the Spirit.

**Reading.** This helps open up your mind, to see other points of view, deepen your appreciation for God in you, inspire you to reach out to others. This is feeding the Spirit.

**Prayer.** This helps you feel God working in you and for you, connecting you to others who care about you and who care for you, find deeper meaning in life, realize you are not alone. This is feeding the Spirit.

Choose your favorite spiritual dish and sit down to a good spiritual meal. Your Spirit will be refreshed and become healthy and strong, and not be overpowered by fear, shame and the terror of death. When we do this, we will find ourselves singing to others, unafraid in the face of darkness, at the top of our voice:

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