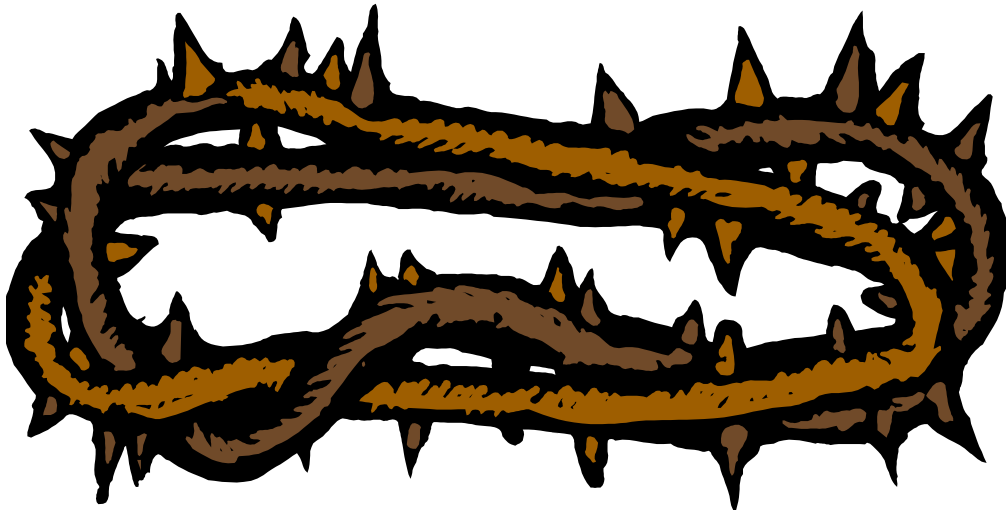


Lesson 17

Pictures of Jesus

The King



When we think of a crown for a king, we think of a golden crown with jewels. Jesus did not wear a golden crown. Instead, Jesus wore a crown of thorns made to shame Him. What the enemies of Jesus did not understand was that Jesus did not come to earth to be a worldly king but to draw all people to Himself to form a heavenly kingdom. The humble crown of thorns was more precious than any gold crown because Jesus wore it when He went to the cross to sacrifice Himself for our salvation.

Zechariah 9:9 | “Your king comes to you righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal (*baby*) of a donkey.”

Matthew 21:1 | “Jesus sent two disciples saying to them, ‘Go to the village ahead of you and at once you will find a donkey tied there with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you tell him that the Lord needs them and he will send them right away.’”

A king is someone who has great power. A king can make rules and give commands that must be obeyed. A king can make agreements with other kings that affect the whole country. A king holds the power of life or death for those who serve him. In a country there is nobody higher than the king.

This is a good picture of Jesus. Jesus is God. Who can be higher than God? Jesus is powerful and His commands must be obeyed. Jesus created the new agreement (covenant) with God the Father that affects the whole world. Jesus can give life both here on earth and in heaven. Jesus really is a King but with a great difference.

The men who are called kings on earth are not God. They make mistakes and commit sins. They are sometimes unfair. Some may be cruel and abuse their power. Kings want to be served by his people. Also, a king only rules his own country. None of this can ever be said about Jesus. That is the difference between earthly kings and our Heavenly King.

Jesus is God and King of all creation, not just one country. Jesus never made a mistake or sinned. Jesus is never unfair or cruel. Jesus

came to earth to serve us and not to be served. He told this to his disciples when He said in Matthew 20:28, "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many." What a wonderful King we have in Jesus. It does not matter who you are, you can always talk to Jesus our King in prayer and He will never be too busy to listen to you.

The Bible passage in Zechariah says so much about Jesus. Jesus is righteous (always does what is right) and He gives us salvation (the forgiveness of our sins). Jesus is gentle and full of love.

The story of Jesus riding on a donkey is part of the Easter story. This is when Jesus entered Jerusalem to finish His work of earning the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus could have come to Jerusalem like a mighty king. Instead, Jesus came gently so that no one would be afraid of Him. What a loving King we have in Jesus.

PRAYER TIME

We thank you Jesus for being the King of our world. You are a wonderful King who rules gently, with love and with salvation. Help us to always follow what You ask of us. Amen