

Sermon of the Week

Christ the King



Theme: Christ the King!

Object: None

Scripture: The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Luke 23:35-38 (NIV)

Today I'm going to tell you about a Backward King and I need your help. When I stop and point at you, you'll say, "That's backward!" Ready?

A long time ago, there lived a King. He was no ordinary king. He was a Backward King. He was different from other kings because He did everything backward from the way other kings did them. From the very day he was born, you could tell that this king was going to be different.

Most kings are usually born in a palace, but this king was born in a stable surrounded by donkeys, sheep and cows. (Stop and point at kids to say, "That's backward!") It wasn't a very big beginning for a king. In fact, very few people even knew that a king had been born. Only a handful of shepherds and three wise men got the word that a king had been born. (Stop and point at kids to say, "That's backward!")

As the infant king grew into a man, he continued to be different from other kings. While most kings spent all of their time building up riches of silver, gold, and jewels, this king owned nothing at all. (Stop and point at kids to say, "That's backward!") And while most kings surrounded themselves with servants, He chose to be a servant. He could often be found helping others. (Stop and point at kids to say, "That's backward!")

As time went on, people became very unhappy with their King because He just didn't act the way they thought a king should act. Instead of riding into town on a big white horse the way other kings usually did, their king rode into town on the back of a donkey. Was that any way for a king to act? (Stop and point at kids to say, "That's backward!")

And the people He chose to be his friends! His closest friends were a bunch of smelly fishermen and He could often be seen visiting with the poor and eating with sinners. (Stop and point at kids to say, "That's backward!")

Finally the people decided that they had put up with this King long enough. If He couldn't act the way a king should act, then they didn't want Him to be their king any more. They made a plan to have Him arrested and thrown into prison. (Stop and point at kids to say, "That's backward!")

Their plan worked. When the day came for his trial, the King stood before the people. Instead of shouting "Hail to the King, Long live the King!" they shouted, "Crucify Him! He is not our king! Crucify Him!" (Stop and point at kids to say, "That's backward!") So they crucified the King. They nailed Him to a cross; they put a crown made of thorns on his head; they poked Him with sharp sticks and made fun of Him. What a way for a king to die! After He was crucified, they took His body and put it in a borrowed tomb. (Stop and point at kids to say, "That's backward!")

Wait, that isn't the end of the story. Remember...this Backward King was different! This King rose from the grave to live forever. Now, instead of being the Backward King, He is the Forever King. He is the King to anyone who chooses Him to be their King. Oh, there are still some people who call Him "King Backward," but those who know Him don't call Him that ... they call him King Jesus!

Jesus wants to be your king too, and if you choose Him to be your king, you will live happily forever, and forever after!

Dear Jesus, today we crown you King and Lord of our life. In Jesus' name, amen.

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