

Christ Our Coming King

June 5, 2016

Today's message is the last in the series we've been doing on what we call "The CMA DNA". The CMA stands for Christian & Missionary Alliance, which is the denomination our church is a part of. DNA stands for deoxyribo-nucleic acid, which is the genetic information in cells, that makes you uniquely you. It's at the core of who we are and we're talking about the core of who we are as a church, and as Christians, which is Jesus; is at the core. We've stated that Jesus is our Savior, Jesus is our Sanctifier, Jesus is our Healer, and today we're talking about Jesus is our Coming King.

Remember the discussion Jesus had with his disciples when he asked them, "who do people say that I am? They replied, "some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Then He asked them point blank, **"But who do you say that I am?"**

I believe Jesus would ask you today, who do you say He is? And I would add, who is Jesus to you?
*(Go ahead and fill in the blank on the front of the cover of the bulletin. **Please, Don't leave it blank.**)*

While you're doing that I'd like us to read **Matthew 25:31-46**

As we think about Jesus coming again, and the title of the message "Christ Our Coming King", you might think, I'm not sure I get all that excited about Christ coming as a King, but I could get excited to hear about Our Coming Friend; Our Coming Savior; Our Coming

Healer; but not so much Our Coming King. A king seems distant, non-personal, and harsh, giving out judgments.

So allow me to lay a little ground work for you all this morning **about why He's Our coming King and why that should matter to us, & why it should excite us.**

Throughout the history of the world, and what is recorded in the Bible, kings were the rulers over territories, & countries, which were designated as kingdoms, where they reigned and ruled. Originally, God was the King of Israel, and he ruled the people using leaders and judges. The people rejected him as king and sought to have a king like all the other nations around them, and so a man named Saul was anointed as their first king, and after him came King David.

Kings ruled the people by making judgments & decisions that affected every aspect of their lives, but they also led their armies in battle to fight against their enemies, which ultimately provided safety & all their material needs as well. So they totally depended on their king for victory, and safety. When the king was good, and wise, and mighty, life was good & the people loved him. When their kings were bad, and tried to rule without God and obeying Him, life was miserable & the people revolted. Because Israel wanted earthly kings rather than God as their king, Israel suffered a lot from kings that failed them, and suffered under other kingdoms that had wicked, harsh kings that took them into captivity, and slavery, and ruled them with an iron fist.

So when Jesus came into the world the first time, as the Messiah, the Christ, which means the anointed one, anointed as King and anointed to save. so he came as the king of the Jews, and preached the kingdom of God is at hand. That's why Herod sought to kill him, and wise men from the east came to worship him, and why the disciples followed him. From the time he was born, to the time he died he was their king. But His kingdom was a different kind of kingdom, not of this world, and so it was hard for many to comprehend it and accept him as their king, because they wanted a conquering king to free them from all their enemies, which they thought was Rome.

In reality their greatest enemy they needed saving from was sin and death, and Jesus defeated both of them not in the way they thought or wanted, but by sacrificing His life for the sins of his people, so that they could live, and have forgiveness, freedom, peace and joy, and He defeated the power of death by rising again victorious over the grave, so death isn't the end of the story. Therefore we have a sure hope for life eternal beyond the grave, and we can have victory over sin, and not let it rule over us if we let Him rule in us. That's because He is King, not only of the Jews, but for all mankind.

Jesus is described in the 19th chapter of Revelations as "The King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords, and an epic battle ensues against the kings of the earth and their armies, along with Satan. It reminds me of the movie "Lord of the Rings; the Return of the King". Of course, Jesus the King wins the war, by capturing and throwing Satan into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

Everything leading up to that battle described in the book of Revelations shows us why Christians will especially be looking forward to his coming, to rescue them from the wickedness of those in control at that time, and the fear of persecution and tribulation. Once that victory is complete, we see descriptions of heaven, and in the last chapter we see Jesus not as the King but as the Lamb, seated on His throne, and He says, **(22:12)** "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done."

The response in verse **17 is:** "The Spirit and the bride say Come, and let him who hears say Come. Whoever is thirsty let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. **20:** "He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

So the reason it's so exciting to realize that Christ is coming again as a king, is that He is good, and loving and kind and powerful and won't lose the battle, and life will be good with Him in control. It's exciting He's coming as King because until then, we're in a battle every day, & every hour within the day. We are in a war against Satan & his armies: Paul told the **Ephesians, 6:12 KJV-** "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

We're also in a battle against our old carnal, sinful self; **James said, 1:14-15**, but each person is tempted

when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.” And every time we sin it feels like we’ve lost a battle against the enemy and our old self, so we humbly seek his forgiveness again.

There’s a Battlefield in our minds & hearts against the culture and the world we live in: enticing us with worldly pleasures as the primary source of happiness, and other wrong thinking, wrong values, and attitudes that are not godly, and turn our hearts away from God. Paul said, **II Corinthians 10:3-5**, *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. and the weapons of our warfare are not of this world, but are divine.*

We also have physical battles with our bodies that break down, with sickness, diseases, physical health, mental health, emotional health, psychological health,

and in every way. Because it can seem like it’s a constant fight, and we can get tired, and feel discouraged at times. With all of these struggles and wars we wage on this earth we can win and be victorious, Paul said in **II Corinthians 4:8-9** *“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.*

While we may experience a degree of health and healing and spiritual victories on this earth, our ultimate healing & victory won’t come until He comes again. So when Christ comes as our King, He will win all these battles, and we won’t have to fight any more. And because of that, we look forward to Christ coming as our King.

There are 3 facts about Jesus coming as Our King that I want to point out before we celebrate communion.

1) **It’s a fact that Christ is coming again.** He said it numerous times, it’s recorded & mentioned over 300 times in the Scriptures, and Christ will keep His Word. Jesus told his disciples, **JN. 14: 1-6** *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”* Thomas said to him, *“Lord, we don’t know where you*

are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

(illustration with my dad: When I was a 6th grader, we lived in Missoula Montana. My dad was the Branch Manager of a Credit Union there, but had accepted a similar position within the same company in Colorado Springs, Co. He told my mom and I that he would be going to Colorado Springs to do some house hunting, and would go and find a place for us to live, and then he'd come back to get us and take us there whenever that was. We didn't know how long it would be, we just assumed it wouldn't be too long, but one thing we did know for sure: we could count on Dad's word, because he was a man of his word; that we could trust what he said was true, and he would fulfill his promise, and come again. It took a little longer than we originally thought, but indeed he did what he said, and the house he picked for us was a cool house that we loved, but mostly it was just great to be back together again as a family.)

That's what Jesus was saying to His disciples then, and is saying to us today. He is coming again, and of course the reason is so we can go to heaven and be with Him, forever. Forever in His presence, where there's no more tears, or pain or suffering or death but only joy and peace and fulfillment.

2) It's a fact that we don't know the exact day when He's coming.

Jesus said in **Matthew 24:36-39** "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,[a] but only the Father. **37** As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **38** For in the days before the

flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; **39** and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

The book of Daniel & Ezekiel prophesied about the last days on earth, and Christ spoke about it and gave a lot of signs of those times for us to be generally aware of, especially as we see here in Matthew 24 & 25, so we can know the general time frame of His coming. There are countless books on this subject, and it is a hot topic, because we'd all love to know exactly when He's coming again.

The Christian & Missionary Alliance believes that His coming is imminent, which means it could happen at any time. Why do we believe this? First, because God is sovereign and His will prevails. He alone will know when all the signs and prophecies will be fulfilled. Second, because the first disciples believed that His return was imminent, & Jesus was coming again in their time, so they must have believed all the signs of the times and prophecies revolving around His return must have been fulfilled. **Hebrews 10:37** says, "For in just a little while, He who is coming will come and will not delay." Peter said in his epistle **(4:7)**, "the end of all things is near." And James said in **5:7**, "Be patient then brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the

farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near." Paul said in **1 Thessalonians 4:15**, "According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words." They could encourage each other with those words because Paul is using the pronoun we, and thinking he & these people would be alive to see that day. [That would mean that all the signs of the times that Jesus talked about must have been fulfilled enough for them to believe that He could come at any moment.](#)

Some people might say, "see, the first disciples were wrong, because after all it's been over 2,000 years and He still hasn't come. These people might tend to live for themselves, however they please because they don't believe He's coming any time soon. **Peter (3:3)** predicted people would think that way and wrote about it, "in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "where is this coming he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything does on as it has since the beginning of creation."

Ever since that time, we have seen the signs of the time of his coming being fulfilled, with wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, famines, false Christ's arising, persecutions of the worst kind, and people falling away from the faith. **Matthew 24:14** says, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Even this could be completed because of all our technological advances in speaking the Word of truth in every language of the world.

But it's not my purpose here this morning to talk in great detail about the timing of His coming, and all that will revolve around it. To me the biggest issue is right now; what are we to do in the meantime. How should we live, in light of the fact that Our King is Coming, and we don't know exactly when? It actually shouldn't even matter how we live if we thought he was coming today, tomorrow, 40 years from now, or in our lifetime. If we're people of integrity that love Jesus with all our heart, we'll live the same regardless. However, because we believe His coming is imminent, this is how we should live.

- 3) **It's a fact, he gave us commands and a commission to complete before He comes;**
He's told us what to do until He comes.

I would summarize the 2 things He would want us to do while we wait for His return, is **(1) Prepare ourselves and (2) Prepare the world.**

(1) Prepare ourselves: In almost every scenario where the writers of the Bible talk about Jesus return, they also talk about how to live, with a sense of anticipation, being ready through holy living, living pure, growing in grace & knowledge of the Lord, fighting the good fight, finishing the race marked out for us, and keeping the faith, loving God and loving others as ourselves.

Luke 21:34-36 - "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

2 Peter 3:11-12 tells us that in light of the Lord's coming, "you ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming." He later says, "since you are looking forward to this day, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Grow in the grace & knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Giving our life to the Lord fully, loving Him with all our heart, soul mind and strength, living to please Him, obey Him is how we prepare ourselves, and we find out how to prepare by reading this life manual. (Bible)

(2) Prepare the World ~ The only way to prepare the world, is to tell the world. Just before Jesus left the earth, He commissioned them to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything He commanded them. Luke spins it a little differently by saying they would be His witnesses in their city, their state, their country and throughout the world, and that the power to accomplish this could only happen if the Holy Spirit came on them.

The Great Commission is our mission until He comes. Every single one of us are to be witnesses of Christ and who He is, and be about the business of making disciples; talking with people about our relationship with Jesus, and helping to lead people to faith in Christ; helping people in tangible ways in love; providing food & water for the hungry & thirsty, clothing for those in need, visiting and caring for people that are sick physically, emotionally, spiritually, and people in prison; nurturing and teaching them about Christ and his commands; encouraging them, affirming them, praying for them, walking with them in life, just as Jesus did with his disciples.

Jesus said it would be good for the servant whose master finds him doing these things when he returns. Then He will say to us, well done, good and faithful servant.

Illustration of Zach & Allie's wedding.

Today is the wedding of Zach Christenson & Allie Franzen. If DeeAnn and I took off for the wedding along with our kids, thinking we were good to go because we had been invited, yet neither of us had replied to the invitation, it would not only be embarrassing, but totally sad & frustrating if we went and when we got there they turned us away, because we didn't r.s.v.p. I might have even thought I replied because I saw the event on Facebook and clicked "Like" and commented, "see you there". And they'll say, we included a postage paid card for you; all you had to do was put your name on it and send it so we could write your name in the book. However, you didn't do that, so there's not a place for you.

The Bible says, "Blessed are all those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb", however only those whose names are written in the Lambs book of life will be able to attend. Those who have responded to the Lord's invitation.

You and I can't force people or make them disciples. All we can do is tell them, and show them. It's up to them to respond. Jesus said, **Matt. 7:21-23**, Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell

them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers' Yes, of course He knows you, but your name is not written in the Lambs book of Life, and the only way that happens is when you surrender your life to the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, as your king, as your Lord, as Your Savior, as your sanctifier, as your healer, by confessing your need for Him because of your sins, and asking Him to forgive you, and invite Him to be Savior and Lord of your life.

Friends, Who is Jesus to you? Is He your Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King? If not, receive Him today; invite Him into your life. Do it now before He comes again, because then it will be too late.

