

LOGOS University

John Tompkins

SYS222 Christology

Instructor Jared Davis

04-09-2019

Reflection Paper

On

“Jesus the King”

By

Timothy Keller

This was an amazing book, not sure what exactly it was that made it such an easy read, maybe because I am getting better at reading? Or maybe it's just the writing technique of the author that made this book a pure pleasure to read. The author was able to break down Old school ethics and teachings of Christianity and smoothly spread those out for me as the reader to consume with ease, wanting more.

The Refection paper assignment was to read chapters 13-16 and describe how these chapters spoke into our lives, and how they could potentially affect our walk and ministry. I plan on finishing reading the entire book, but I understand why the assignment was on these chapters. If we don't understand the power of the blood, we're not going to understand the purpose of Jesus, and if we don't understand the purpose of Jesus, we're going to have a difficult time as a believer whose mission is to share the Good News with others.

As I was reading this book, I was getting excited paragraph to paragraph, I was taking notes and highlighting words and phrases, making marks to go back and reflect on. I probably ruined the book, but that's cool, because it's mine and I don't plan on letting go of it. What's funny is, I bought it used and there are chew marks on the corners, and I can only think that the person before me was hungry for more just as I was.

Chapter 13, The Temple, this is the first chapter of the assignment. To understand the meaning of the Temple, and the story behind it, helps understand the reason for what God did thru Jesus. We see a man like never before, a man that is not bragging on who He is but, walking in a gentle boldness, a humility that was never seen, not of tradition of that time. A man in King status that wanted nothing to do with the riches of the world, but everything to do with teaching the riches of heaven.

Jesus did an inventory of what was going on, he was watching firsthand how the chosen people were adulterating the temple and traditions. The timing of God is so spectacular and witnessed in such a way during this time, Jesus could not have come a day sooner or later, Gods plan was unfolding and the world was about to change. Understanding the frustration of Jesus in the Temple as he watched the money traders taking over the temple, forgetting the purpose of why they were all there.

The fig less fig tree, WOW, never heard the definition of this verse, how powerful, what an impact this had on me personally. To see a fig tree that was alive, with leaves, it looked good from a far, but when you got closer and realized there was no fruit, you then realized there was a problem. How this resembles so many of the church today, not saying I've got it all figured out, but I'd rather be with a group of dead fig trees that could easily be identified by the dead leaves, then a group of

fig trees that look alive but dead inside. All I want now is to press into him more, understanding everything that I may have missed, and thank you for this chapter.

Page 3.

Chapter 14, The Feast, what a mind blowing experience this was for the disciples to experience this message from Jesus himself, for years they have heard about the deliverance of their people, and the power of God, but never would they think they would be selected to carry out the new covenant, with the Son. I try to picture myself in the time, and place this all went down, imagine the God that everyone prayed to was actually sitting in front of you telling you that this is what you all have been waiting for. Do you think they got it the first time he said these things, , like we read chapters over and over, do you think these men payed such great attention that they got it the first time Jesus said it?

When I became a believer I remember reading, hearing, seeing communion, I followed along with it, but no way did I understand what was going on, no way did I understand to the fullest what it meant. Why I was ingesting the cracker and calling it flesh, or why I was drinking the juice calling it blood, it was strange, but it was all strange to me and first. The more I think the more see that if we don't know the history, the Old Testaments, were not fully going to understand the significance of the New Testament, I heard once they mirrors each other, and the more we study, the more I see the reflection.

I love the fact that the book talks about the Passover meal being a meal with the family, the family of Christ that is such a powerful and significant display on unity. People used to ask me all the time why I offer food before our service at One Fire, at first I was not 100% sure, it was just on my heart and I used to answer “to feed the hungry” but about 2 years ago I stated to realize it was more than that, it was the beginning of a local Friday night family dinner.

Page 4

Chapter 15, the Cup, the cup no one wants to drink, the cup no mortal man in their right mind would or could drink. If we dint know what transparency meant, we do know, what a beautiful example of the father, loving us in a way that He sent his son to do what he had to do. Today this would be the ultimate form of child abuse, but in the supernatural, it was and still is the most heroic example of fatherhood, blowing away any traditional love story. Jesus knew what had to be done and He had the power to procrastinate, walk away, refuse, but like today, His promises are the real deal, never leaving or forsaking us, a true man of His words.

A little example that I can relate to, as an adult man, I’m always looking for way to avoid the dentist, because I know what I am about to endure, and that even comes with me keeping my life and a prize from the toy chest. Could you imagine that Jesus knew that after this day of torture and death he would be taken from his life on earth, his family and friends? That’s how we think, that’s how selfish we are, that’s how far away from being like Christ we are, He knew this and this is why He

did what he did, so we wouldn't have to walk just like him. We will never fully understand the Love Jesus has for us, I know that I have a hard time just loving the people that love me, but to love those who try to kill you, hate you, despise and spit on you, it's not fleshly possible. It's not of this world, but wait, that's the transformation were to go thru, that's the reason He didn't what He did, so we could have possess a love like that , so we could ingest a love like that, so we could walk out a love like that.

What a God we serve, and what a shame not to experience this love He has for us all. And not until we experience can we fully explain to someone why we love them the way we do, when in the eyes of the world it just make no sense.

Page 5

Chapter 16, the Sword, the word of God, the Spirit of truth, 10 years ago if you asked me to describe a sword, I would have gotten all medieval on you. The phrase "live by the sword die by the sword" was one of my favorites in the natural world. It was all done on my own strength, what someone thought about me was who I was, if I ran I was a coward, If I fought I was a man, If I let someone take advantage of me I was weak, it all had to do with how I reacted or responded. And that is what determined in the eyes of man. If I was worthy or unworthy, what a tiresome life that was. Chasing down and trying to chop the head of everyone and thing that came against me and that I felt had done me wrong.

Praise God he allowed me to switch swords, what a weight lifted from me. Now, like Peter, knowing the word, knowing who Jesus is, and my natural instinct at

times likes to red flag situations. But now, most of the time, I can address like Jesus would. But saying that, I can only do it with the power of the Holy Spirit. As I continue this walk with Christ, I can say that I see a transformation in lives every day, including mine, He illumines situations and people in my life that He wants me to address with His love, His touch, His word. It's a pure Joy and Honor to introduce the thirsty to the well, the sick to the doctor and orphans to the Father. And I know He is not just teaching them thru me, but sharpening me thru them.