

**Pastor Paul Bawden**  
**Grace Evangelical Church**  
**Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010**  
**"Jesus – The King Comes"**  
**Mark 11:1-11ff**

When I was growing up we used to play the game called checkers. I would image all of us or at least most of us have played checkers.

I remember playing checkers at different times with my Dad. I loved to challenge him, but he always seemed to be able to out maneuver me on the checkerboard.

But the one thing I liked about checkers was when I was able to get a king. I would say, "King Me." I could get back one of the checkers my Dad had jumped, and put it on one of my checkers that had moved into king territory. Then I could move around on the checkerboard in any direction.

Playing checkers was a fun game. I have great memories of the competition it brought along with building relationships. When we go into Cracker Barrel to eat I am reminded of the checker games we play when I see that big checker board sitting on a table in front of the fire place.

However, there is One who didn't have to play checkers to become a "king." He didn't have to out maneuver someone in order to get into king territory. No, He always was King from all eternity.

Yes, I am talking about Jesus Christ, the one who came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey on what is called that first Palm Sunday, the Sunday of the week before Jesus' crucifixion – known as Passion Week. The crowd took the branches of Palm trees (John 12:13), and spread them on the road (Matthew 21:8). Luke also refers to the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

**Note, what our text tells us in Mark 11:1ff about Jesus' ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. All the Gospels, then, record Christ's coming into the beloved city. Obviously, this was one of the most important events in the life of Jesus Christ on earth.**

**Let's read the text.**

We also need to read Matthew 21:4-5 which quotes Zechariah 9:9 – since Matthew wrote to the Jews, he included a quote from the prophet, Zechariah, who penned about 520 B.C.

"This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet, 'Say to the daughter of Zion, Behold your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

Then Matthew (21:9) gives the same quote as Mark (11:9) as both quote from Psalm 118:26, "Hosanna (Save now)! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." Matthew adds, "Hosanna in the Highest!" Mark adds, "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our Father David. " This was said after the quote from Psalm 118:26.

What do we learn about King Jesus in this text that established the first Palm Sunday, which we commemorate today many years later? And what is there here for our personal lives, our family lives, our church life, and our lives at work, at school, and in the neighborhood?

There is something here about . . .

**I. The King's Person (Mark 11:6, 7, 3, 10).**

**1.His Name.**

**(1) Jesus is called a King (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:5).**

Some five hundred years before Jesus was born, He was called a king by the prophet, Zechariah (9:9), and then the prophesy was applied directly to Christ when He rode into Jerusalem on the donkey on that first Palm Sunday by Matthew (Matthew 21:5). To me that meant that even before Jesus was born, He was a King. He had to take upon Himself humanity to demonstrate to Israel and to the world that He was truly their King and the King of the world. I refer you as well to Isaiah 9:7 where the prophet says that the Messiah would rule on the throne of David. Isaiah is prophesying that the Messiah would be a King.

### **(2) The King's name is Jesus (11:6,7).**

Yeshua – Salvation or Savior (His Hebrew name for the Messiah). His name will be called, Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). He would be the Savior.

### **(3) The King's name is "Lord." (11:3).**

In fact Jesus told the two disciples who he sent to fetch a donkey to ride on into Jerusalem that, when they were asked why they were needing the donkey, they were to say, "The Lord has need of it."

The word for "Lord" here is "kurios." In the Old Testament the word is capitalized, LORD, referring to God as Yahweh, that He is God. This is saying that Jesus recognized that He was God in the flesh, the God-man. Of course, it can also refer to Master, or Owner.

Jesus is Master and Owner because He is God. That is who Jesus is. He owns everything, the cattle on a thousand hills, the wealth in every mine. He owns the rivers and the rocks and rills, the sun and stars that shine. As the Creator, Jesus is Lord, He is God, He is the owner. He is the Master.

That is why Paul wrote in Romans 10:9, "That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord (as God), and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (rescued from sin's penalty of death and given eternal life).

### **(4) The King's name is "Messiah, The Christ" as well (Mark 11:10).**

This name is not used here in the text but it is certainly implied from Mark 11:10 where it states "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David."

The people were acknowledging that Jesus was their Messiah from the line of David.

Of course, it would be entirely different than what they thought later in the week when they turned against Jesus, had him crucified. Jesus died and was buried, but then He rose bodily from the dead.

### **The King's name is: The Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **He is God, the Savior of the world, and Israel's Messiah. That's why the King is the Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### **2. His Heritage (Mark 11:10).**

"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David."

As we just mentioned, these words are referring to Jesus Christ as the Jewish Messiah, and the people knew that it meant. But it stresses as well the background of Jesus Christ. The Jews knew that Christ was in the lineage of king David. They knew what II Samuel 7 said about David that he would have a seed that would come who would establish the throne of his kingdom forever (II Samuel 7:12-13). They applied these words correctly to Jesus Christ. In fact Matthew and Luke in giving the lineage of Jesus Christ say specifically that Jesus was of the lineage of king David. Matthew – Jesus, the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham (1:1). Luke – the son of David (Luke 3:31).

At this moment in the minds of those going along with Jesus, He was the promised Messiah to fulfill the promise made to David, yes, from the seed of Abraham, the seed of Adam. Jesus was of the human race, yet He was God, the Jehovah of the Old Testament now come in flesh.

#### **3. His authority (Mark 11:1, 2, 3, 7).**

As the record of Mark is read regarding Jesus' coming into Jerusalem on a donkey, it is very clear that Jesus was in control of the situation at hand.

\*\*Notice that Jesus "sent" two disciples to fetch the donkey for Himself (11:1).

\*\*Then Jesus said to them, "Go into the village" (11:2).

\*\*If a question is asked of them, they are to say, "The Lord has need of it" (11:3).

\*\*Then when the colt was brought to Jesus, "He sat on it" (11:7). Then of course Jesus must have directed the donkey to start going or had his disciples get the donkey going.

**The authority of Jesus is very clear here.** He was the One in charge of making His entrance into Jerusalem on the donkey possible. He knew what He was about – He knew His ultimate mission on earth – to win redemption for the world. In fact, Jesus whole life on earth, even in the temple as a boy of 12, was one who was in charge, carrying out the plan that His heavenly Father had for Him – as He said there that He must be about His Father’s business.

Jesus, though never abused His authority. The Romans, on the other hand, ruled with an iron hand, taking advantage of people by intimidation and manipulation.

Jesus had just told His disciples in Mark 10:45 that He came not to be served, but to serve and give His life a ransom for many.

**Actually, Jesus was using the authority given Him by His heavenly Father.**

In John 8:28 Jesus said, “I do nothing on my own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father has taught me. And He who sent me is with Me.”

Then in John 5:27 (and He – the Father) gave Him (that is Jesus) the authority to execute judgment because He is the Son of Man.

Jesus was exercising His authority here in conjunction with the authority given Him by His Heavenly Father to carry out His will.

**Such should give us as followers of Christ real encouragement and hope as we see developments in our country and the world. As we experience different challenges and seeming negative things in our lives. Jesus Christ is the sovereign KING. In cooperation with His heavenly father, He is in the process of working out all things for our good and for His glory. He is never late with His plan. He is never early. He is always on time. What He wants us to do is to keep trusting in Him, to keep having faith in Him and His Word. In His time He will make all things right!!**

#### **4. His Activity.**

Never before this time had Jesus stepped into the public eye as He does in Mark 11. Thusly, this chapter of Mark begins a new section in Mark’s Gospel.

Chapters 1-10 of Mark’s Gospel present Christ’s ministry as a servant of the Lord and of others. Now in chapter 11 of Mark, Christ’s ministry turns to His sacrifice for sin as a servant. Jesus had foretold directly that this was coming in Mark 8:31-32; 9:30-32; 10:33-34.

Chapters 11-15, then, give us the Passion Week of Jesus Christ, starting with His entrance into Jerusalem on Sunday and culminating with His death and burial on Friday, and His bodily resurrection on the next Sunday.

Bethphage, the starting point for Jesus to sit on the donkey and begin riding into Jerusalem, was about 2 miles from Jerusalem. It was at about a 2000 foot elevation, from which could be seen a breathtaking view of the city of Jerusalem.

Jesus’ riding into Jerusalem on a donkey was right during Passover Week. God’s timing is always perfect, as Jesus, the Lamb of God, was coming to fulfill the Old Testament sacrificial lamb, and the entire Old Testament worship system.

Many people had gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. People from Galilee were coming into the holy city. The word had spread about Jesus’ healing ministry, many had been healed by Jesus. The news of raising Lazarus from the grave had spread through the area and the city. When Jesus got ready to sit on the donkey and started riding into the city, they became ecstatic. They cried out, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the LORD.”

What’s happening here as Jesus presents Himself publicly to the Jewish people, really to the world?

### **1. Scripture is being fulfilled (Zechariah 9:9).**

Matthew quotes from Zechariah 9:9 that says "Behold your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt the foal of a donkey."

Certainly, Jesus would know what the Old Testament Scripture teaches. He knew it was time to fulfill this Scripture, and He was the One to do it. Don't ever forget that Jesus knows what the Bible teaches. He knows what we need to do in obedience to Him.

### **2. Jesus is declaring and presenting Himself to be the true King of Israel.**

He is the promised Messiah. He is the true Savior of the world.

### **3. Jesus is giving the people the opportunity to express their feelings about Him.**

**\*\*Putting their garments** on the donkey before Jesus began riding the animal suggested royalty – customary in welcoming a king.

**\*\*The palm branches used was a common practice** at national celebrations in Israel (Leviticus 23:40). From the Maccabees (I Macc. 13:51; 2 Macc. 10:7), we are told that palm branches had become a national symbol. Palm branches appear on the coins that the Jewish nationalists produced during the war with the Romans in A.D. 66-70. Used on this occasion, the palm branches may have signaled belief that the Messiah had come (cf. Revelation 7:9).

### **\*\*The crowd was shouting . . . .**

"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."  
Hosanna means "give salvation now."

I understand that the Jews commonly used this word in their praise at the feasts of Tabernacles, Dedication, and Passover. It was part of the Hallel Ps. 113—118) that the temple choir sang at these feasts (Ps. 118:25).<sup>433</sup>

"Blessed is He . . ." is the very next statement in Psalm 118 (Ps. 118:26). The Jews of Jesus' day regarded the phrase "He who comes in the name of the Lord" as referring to Messiah (cf. 11:27).

Originally it referred to pilgrims who went to Jerusalem for the feasts and perhaps in the first instance to the Davidic king whose coronation the psalmist wrote the psalm to honor. "Even the King of Israel" is not in Psalm 118. It was the people's identification of Jesus as the Messiah (cf. Luke 19:38; John 1:49; 18:37; 19:19).

The people were certain now that Jesus was coming to bring in the kingdom promised through David. They would be delivered from Roman rule and oppression. Their Messiah, the Deliverer, the One foretold in the Old Testament, was here.

Jesus was openly affirming His kingship as the Son of David, the King of Israel.

### **4. Jesus was challenging the religious leaders of his day.**

John penned this about the Pharisees, "Look, the whole world has gone after Him" (John 12:19).

**5. This was Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem the first time.** He will come the second time in power and great glory to establish His kingdom on earth putting down all wickedness and rebellion against Him.

In the Roman world, a Roman triumph was something to behold. When a Roman general came back to Rome after a military conquest of the enemy, he was welcomed home with an elaborate official parade, where his trophies of war and prisoners he captured would be exhibited. The general would ride in a golden chariot pulled by horses or he would ride on a horse, and the priests would burn incense in his hand, and the people would shout and praise him. The procession ended in the arena where the people were entertained by the captives fighting wild beasts. In fact, a Roman general had to kill at least 5000 enemy soldiers to merit a triumph.

**Obviously, our Lord's triumphal entry was not like that at all. He came riding on a donkey the symbol of a servant to the people. On the other hand, military leaders rode in chariots and/or on horses. When Jesus comes the second time, as Revelation 19 tells us, Jesus will come on a white horse because He is coming to conquer and put down all rule and rebellion against Him.**

**Jesus, the first time comes as the servant of the people to give His life a ransom for many.** For in a few days, our Lord would be crucified, be buried, but on the third day he would rise bodily from the grave.

After His ascension, the Holy Spirit came upon those in the upper room, and later in Acts 4:4 it is said that 5000 believed the message of the gospel of Christ.

Christ's triumphal entry was to deal with sin, the old nature, the godless philosophy of the world, the evil one, and yes, death itself. He came to change hate to love, error to truth, and death to life.

He had to go to old Golgatha's hill, die, be buried and rise again bodily before He could demonstrate His kingship to Israel and to the world.

The bulk of the Jewish nation missed this reality even though foretold in the Old Testament in the prophets such as Isaiah. They were so zeroed in on wanting to be freed from Roman oppression that the nation missed that Jesus must be the Savior first, giving His life to pay the penalty for sin and rising again, before He could demonstrate fully to them that He was their King nationally and for the world globally.

The Jewish nation missed that the spiritual in one's life must be dealt with first before there can be righteousness and peace nationally and internationally.

Sad to say today that the many of the Jews and others as well miss the fact that a Savior is needed first before any of the other challenges in our world can be dealt with. The heart of man must be changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ of Jesus Christ. The supernatural intervention of the Holy Spirit in a life through the person's faith bringing transformation not reformation. Then will come the changes in society that need to take place to the glory of God.

But let's did a little deeper here.  
We have looked at Christ's person, now let's look at His work.

## **II. The King's work (Mark 11:12ff).**

Three things about the King's work become apparent here.

### **1. The King exposes us for who we are (Mark 11:12-14; 20-21).**

The next, day, Monday, leaving Bethany, Jesus became hungry. Jesus saw a fig tree with leaves on it, but when He came to it, the tree had no fruit. Then Mark adds, "For it was not the season for figs." Then Jesus told the tree that it would never produce fruit again. What's the explanation here, when Mark adds that the tree had leaves but no fruit, for it was not the season for figs? Didn't Jesus know that it was not the season for figs to be on the tree? Of course Jesus knew what time of the year it was.

**It has been explained this way. Though ripe figs were not expected until June, smaller 'pre-figs' would appear with the leaves in March or April. Jesus was looking for those indicators that genuine fruit would one day result.**

With no indication of genuine fruit to come, Jesus told the tree that it would never have fruit again. This is the second time in Jesus' ministry that used His power to destroy something in nature (cf. Mark 11:20). (the first time happened when Jesus sent the demons into the pigs who drowned in the sea).

### **What is Jesus teaching here?**

**The fig tree is associated with the nation of Israel (Jeremiah 8:13; Nahum 3:12; Hosea 9:10).**

Jesus is teaching the nation of Israel that the nation is like the fig tree. It has leaves but no fruit. The nation had failed in being fruitful for God. She was dead spiritually. She is dried up from the roots. Since the nation has been unfruitful, she is under God's judgment. Jesus exposed Israel for who she really was. Israel seemed to have an appearance of spirituality but no evidence of true lasting fruit in their lives, for inwardly they were corrupt, rejecting Christ as their Messiah and Savior. Israel was filled with unbelief!!!

As Christ the King comes to us. . . .

**(1) He exposes the unfruitfulness of unbelievers.**

He tells us that our hearts can have evil thoughts, be deceitful, display envy and slander, have pride, yes, get involved in adultery, fornication, theft and murder. (Mark 7:21-22).

We stand in need of the King who is our Savior through faith in Him.

**(2) He exposes our unfruitfulness as believers in Him.**

Jesus wants us as believers to be fruitful for Him in the power of the Spirit. That's what Jesus taught in John 15. The one who abides in Him, obeys Him in the power of the Spirit will have Christ-likeness evident in his or her life. Christ taught that the Father is glorified when our lives bear the fruit, the fruit of the Spirit - Christ's love of commitment, His joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness (faith), gentleness, and self-control, I am being fruitful in my life for Jesus Christ. A grumpy, complaining follower of Christ is not fruitful for His Lord.

**2. The King tells us what we can become (Mark 11:22-26).**

After the disciples comment about the dead fig tree on the next day, Tuesday, Jesus challenges them and us as well.

**(1) Be people of faith & prayer - "Have faith in God."**

Keep depending on the Lord regardless of the circumstances. Live in an attitude of believing that the Lord is always there working out your challenges.

Then Jesus starts talking about a mountain. To the Jewish mind that would be something that was strong and immovable – that which is a real problem.

**The one who prays and does not doubt will have God's intervention into one's seeming insurmountable challenge.**

As John tells us in his first letter chapter 5:14-15, our prayers must be in the will of God. We must also abide in Christ, that is be living in an obedient relationship with the Lord (John 15:7-14).

Prayer is not just an emergency measure we turn to, it is an on-going communion with God and worship of Him.

**Mark 11:24 doesn't mean that if you have enough faith you'll get your answer or if you believe hard enough you'll get an answer. Rather it is faith that is grounded in God's Word, asking that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. It is believing God and waiting on Him for the answer of 'Yes,' 'No' or 'Wait.'**

**(2) Be people of forgiveness (Mark 11:25-26).**

God will not answer our prayers if we have sin in our lives. If we are out of fellowship with Him and other believers, or those in our family, even in the church family, or any other person, God will not hear our prayers. That means,

**\*\*When we sin against God we are to ask His forgiveness (I John 1:9).**

**\*\*When we sin against others we are to ask their forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32).**

In fact I am to ask forgiveness of someone else I have offended before I ask forgiveness of God. Having asked forgiveness of the person I have offended, then I can ask God's forgiveness and He restores me to fellowship (Matthew 5:23-24).

A forgiving spirit, then, is an evidence that one is walking daily by faith in the Lord. If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me as the Psalmist instructs us (Psalm 67:18).

### **3. The King tells us how to be authentic disciples of His and live before others (Mark 11:15-19).**

The temple for Passover had been set up as a religious market. The outer court of the temple, where praying was to be done, was a place for paying for buying perfect animals that could be used for sacrifice. Even the lowest priced sacrifice, the turtledove was being used to victimize the poor pilgrims in Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. The sellers, in league with the High Priests were charging exorbitant fees for their animals. The money changers were present to exchange the foreign money into Jewish money to pay the temple tax, and to fulfill the rites of purification.

People were also using the outer court as a short cut between the city of Jerusalem and the Mt of Olives (Mark 11:16).

Seeing the sham that is going on and the desecrating of God's house, the temple, Jesus drives out the money changers, overturning their tables, and stops people from moving through the outer court of the temple. (This is the second time that Jesus cleansed the temple –cf. John 2:13-17, at the beginning of His ministry). During this first and second cleansings of the temple, the money changers had gone back into business.

#### **How does King Jesus use this situation to show us His desire for us to be authentic disciples of His?**

##### **1. Jesus exercises His kingly authority to expose the hypocrisy of the Jewish people and leaders.**

The people had made the temple of God, the place of prayer and worship, a den of robbers and thieves. In their seeming worship of God, they were covering up what they were like inside, a people who were sinners before God with no faith in Him and no experience of His forgiveness and grace.

By His actions, Jesus is telling the people that their lives need to be cleansed by His authority to be vessels that can have fellowship with Him and have His character, His fruit, in their lives as individuals and as a nation. Of course that cleansing would come through His death, burial, and bodily resurrection as a person accepted Him as Savior.

##### **2. Jesus through the Holy Spirit comes to us today to expose our hypocrisy that we exhibit and to provide us His cleansing.**

###### **(1) As unbelievers.**

As Jesus exposes the unfruitfulness of all unbelievers, He also exposes the form of godliness without any lasting substance. That's why the Holy Spirit has come to convict of sin, righteousness and judgment. The work of the Holy Spirit is to enlighten the unbeliever so that he can see that even his religiosity is a sham before the Lord, for all one's unrighteousness is as a filthy garment before the holy and righteous God. The unbeliever needs to see that his life needs to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ and given a new nature through faith in HIM.

###### **(2) As believers in Christ.**

Today, in the full revelation of God, believers are the temple of the Holy Spirit, the holy of holies (I Corinthians 6:19-20). As believers in Christ we have been cleansed of all of our sin. We stand before the Lord declared righteous through faith in HIM.

In fact, God the Father, Christ, and the Holy Spirit live spiritually in each believer. Believers in Christ are inhabited by the Trinity. We have been bought with a price, the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore we are to glorify God in our bodies as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Through faith in the Lord, He has cleaned us up, forgiven us, so we can be a clean vessel to be used by Him. So, in the power of the Holy Spirit we can enjoy the Lord and live a genuine, authentic life, clean lives before Him. When we do sin, God wants us to confess our sin to Him, and to others if sin is against them, use the spiritual bar of soap, I John 1:9, and go on living a clean life with and for Him.

But it's easy to put on a good front, but inside not be right with the Lord and others.

It's easy to put on a good front with the relationship between husband and wife, but things may not be peaceful and in harmony.

Yes, it's easy to act as a Christian because, we know the drill, so to speak, but our hearts may not be in fellowship with the Lord.

It's easy to come here on Sunday morning and give the impression that one is really living for Christ, but one may not be doing so because of a wrong attitude or action one is involved in.

Yes, this building is not a place where we merchandise the gospel. This is not a country club. There are plenty of those around. This is a place for worship, prayer, for learning, being equipped and for ministry, so we can go out and share the good news with others who need to hear that Jesus is the one who cleanses from sin and gives the believer the privilege to represent Him in the world.

On this Palm Sunday, the King has come. He has gone to the cross to be our substitute, to pay the penalty for our breaking God's law. He was buried, and He conquered the grave bodily.

**The believer in King Jesus has Him live in his or her life.** The believer has that wonderful position of being a conqueror in Christ, of being victor in Christ. As Paul pens in II Corinthians 2:14, God always leads us in triumph in Christ.

We are winners, we are victors in Christ because He is King over sin, the old sin nature, the old ungodly philosophy of the world, the devil, and death itself.

As believers in Christ we have that wonderful position of having won over all these negatives because we are identified with Christ in His death, burial, and bodily resurrection.

**The challenge is to live as a king or queen of Jesus Christ.**

**Paul writes in Romans 5:17 that we reign in life through One Jesus Christ.**

**That is the challenge each of us as followers of Christ have each day.**

**Namely, to let Christ be on the throne of our lives in every thought, attitude, word, and action. And that is the believer's experience as he or she obeys the Holy Spirit as revealed in the Word of God.**

**But Jesus is not just King of our lives, He is King of the world, and regardless of what happens in Washington D.C. or in the Middle East, He is going to come and put down all rebellion against Him and establish His 1000 year kingdom on earth, and eventually a new heaven and earth.**

**You can count on it for He came the first time as prophesied. It is prophesied that He will come the second time, and He will do just that.**

**He said it, I believe, that is all I need.**

**King Jesus wants to be involved directly in our lives.**

**Louise Redden, a poorly dressed lady with a look of defeat on her face, walked into a grocery store.** She approached the owner of the store in a most humble manner and asked if he would let her charge a few groceries. She softly explained that her husband was very ill and unable to work, they had seven children and they needed food. John Longhouse, the grocer, scoffed at her and requested that she leave his store.

Visualizing the family needs, she said, "Please, sir! I will bring you the money just as soon as I can."

John told her he could not give her credit, as she did not have a charge account at his store.

Standing beside the counter was a customer who overheard the conversation between the two. The customer walked forward and told the Grocer the he would stand good for whatever she needed for her family

The Grocer said in a very reluctant voice, "Do you have a grocery list?"

Louise replied, "Yes, sir." "Okay," he said, "put your grocery list in the scales and whatever your grocery list weighs, I will give you that amount in groceries." Louise hesitated for a moment with a bowed head, then she reached into her purse and took out a piece of paper and scribbled something on it. She then laid the piece of paper on the scale carefully with her head still bowed.

The eyes of the Grocer and the customer showed amazement when the scales went down and stayed down. The Grocer staring at the scales, turned slowly to the customer and said begrudgingly, "I can't believe it."

The customer smiled and the Grocer started putting the groceries on the other side of the scales. The scale did not balance so he continued to put more and more groceries on them until the scales would hold no more. The Grocer stood there in utter disgust. Finally, he grabbed the piece of paper from the scales and looked at it with greater amazement.

It was not a grocery list, it was a prayer which said, "Dear Lord, you know my needs and I am leaving this in your hands." The Grocer gave her the groceries that he had gathered and placed on the scales and stood in stunned silence. Louise thanked him and left the store.

The customer handed a fifty dollar bill to John as he said, "It was worth every penny of it." It was sometime later that John Longhouse discovered the scales were broken; therefore, only God knows how much a prayer weighs.

**Jesus is truly King and works out all things for our good and His glory as we trust in Him.**

**But right now Jesus wants to be King of our lives in every area. Not a hard concept to grasp, but always a challenge to put into practice, still possible as we obey the Lord each day.**

As Bill Bright's little boy, Bradley, found out one morning when his dad wanted him to eat the egg on his plate before him at the breakfast table. Bill had been teaching his two sons, Bradley and Zachary, about Jesus being on the throne of their lives.

When the little Bradley would not eat his egg, Bill asked him who was on the throne of his life. The little fellow answered through tears, "The devil and me." Bill asked him who should be on the throne of his life? His son answered, "Jesus." Bill said, "Let's pray." And the little fellow prayed, "Dear Jesus forgive me for being disobedient, and help me eat that egg." God heard his prayer, and he ate his egg, in fact the entire egg.

That evening when Bill was saying prayers with his two sons. Bill asked if Jesus had been on the throne of their lives that day. The one son, Zachary replied that Jesus had been on the throne of his life. The other son, Bradley

**Let's live this week on King Jesus' checkerboard and live as His King or Queen in His power for His glory.**

-