

## Does His Majesty Attract You?

A Penny For Your Thoughts? It's a strange question, isn't it? We say "A penny for your thoughts" for a reason. We don't know what is going on in people's minds, do we? Oh, how interesting it would be to know what people were thinking. This evening we do just that. Through the true and faithful words of scripture we get to peer into people's minds. This evening we have the privilege of doing that. But, the Holy Spirit guides our thoughts and moves us to ask the question: *what is it that attracts people to the Christ?* In the beginning of Psalm 2, we read: *"Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One. 'Let us break their chains,' they say, 'and throw off their fetters.'"*<sup>1</sup>

The first group of minds we look into are the rulers. They plot against him. They take their stand against him. And here's the irony: Christ's majesty *did* attract them, but not as something to worship. No, what they saw before them was the meekest, humblest man the world had ever known. And they fought against him not because he was so formidable to them, but because he was so weak. For, to them, Meekness is weakness.

We see this so very clearly as we travel with Jesus this Lent season, don't we? Pilate was attracted to Jesus, but not to provide justice to this meek man. No, he was attracted to him because used Jesus as a pawn. He used him as a tool to make friends and influence people. And look at Herod. He wasn't a pawn to Herod. No, he was a puppet. Herod wanted Jesus to perform miracles and signs and wonders. And in response all he saw was Jesus' meekness. Or, look at the Pharisees. They too were attracted to the Christ. But, like bullies on a playground, all they were interested in was pain. Jesus had shown them their sin and their hypocrisy. And they wanted pain and blood in return.

And as King Solomon said, "There is nothing at all new under the sun." The rulers, the politicians, the presidents and prime ministers are still attracted to the Christ. For their verdict is the same: *meekness is weakness*.

More than anything, the rulers of the world want to use and abuse Christ. Here, the psalmist breaks in. The rulers say "let us..." *Let us plan. Let us plot. Let us make this man our pawn, our puppet.* And the psalmist breaks in, saying: "let me speak!" Let me tell all you who are reading or hearing this psalm what the LORD says. And what is it the LORD says? *"You are my Son; today I have become your Father."*<sup>2</sup>

The psalmist brings in front of our eyes one of the most perplexing and important teachings in the bible. This meek man isn't just a man. He is not just the son of Mary. He is also the Son of the LORD. And from this amazing fact, the LORD reveals tells us a 'so then.' Since Jesus isn't only a man, but he is also the Son of God, how do you think the Christ will respond when he sees how they are taking advantage of his meekness? He's not going to like it. No, we could speak even stronger than this couldn't we? He's going to crush them. And that's exactly what the psalmist says: *"Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."*<sup>3</sup>

And so, we see what attracts the rulers to Christ. To them, his meekness is weakness. We see what the LORD's response is. He will crush them like a potter breaks jars that are deformed. Finally then, we hear a plea from the psalmist. He does something surprising and amazing. We would expect him to cheer for the LORD. We would expect him to say "finally, they're getting what they deserve. They are getting crushed like jars." But, instead, what does he say?: *"Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him."*<sup>4</sup>

He pleads. He begs. He invites them to be attracted to the Christ for the *right* reason. He invites them to repent and know him as we do. For our life is one, huge contrast isn't it? We gladly serve our LORD. But we do so with fear. We rejoice in the LORD. But at the same time we are terrified by him.

Why the fear? Why the terror? What moved the psalmist to invite the rulers to repent was that he saw

<sup>1</sup>(Psalms 2:1-3 NIV)

<sup>2</sup>(Psalms 2:7 NIV)

<sup>3</sup>(Psalms 2:8-9 NIV)

<sup>4</sup>(Psalms 2:10-12 NIV)

himself in them. He saw the times he had made the Christ a pawn, a puppet or brought him pain. And that thought terrified him. How terrifying it is to know that we are dust and ashes. How fearful it is to know that we have so much power in us to see Christ's meekness as weakness.

So there is fear and there is trembling in our hearts. But there is also rejoicing. The psalmist closes this song with these words: "*Blessed are all who take refuge in him*"<sup>5</sup> We rejoice even amidst all the trembling because we take refuge in Christ. When our sinful nature attracts us to Jesus thinking that his meekness is weakness, we can take shelter in him. For he knows what it is to be tempted. He gives us the strength to say *NO* to our sinful nature. But more often than that, we find shelter in him in yet a different way. As much as we try to not take advantage of Jesus, our sinful nature gets the upper-hand. At those time we take refuge in him knowing that even though we were the ones who deserved to be smashed, he was the one who was beaten, bruised and battered in our place.

Notice then what it is then what attracts us to Christ again and again. It's the great and glorious majesty that we find in his *meekness*. His meekness terrifies us because we know exactly what our sinful nature can do with his meekness. His meekness moves us to rejoice. For it is that same meekness which takes away our sin and invites us to serve and follow him.

So then, my brothers and sisters in Christ, continue to be attracted to this majesty. Spend your days being terrified of your sin and rejoicing in the refuge you Messiah provides for you. Amen.

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<sup>5</sup>(Psalms 2:12 NIV)