

Week of January 15-21

HUMPTY DUMPTY

Scripture Reading: Read Matthew chapter 12

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty together again.

One of things we have discovered through our study of Matthew is that the kingship of Jesus comes in unexpected ways. He was born not in a palace but in a stable, placed not in a comfortable bed but in a feeding trough. His birth was not to parents of power or prestige but to a humble carpenter and his wife. He was not born into wealth but into poverty. He was not raised in the capital city of Jerusalem but on the wrong side of the tracks in the city of Nazareth. His kingdom comes not to the "righteous" or "healthy" but to the sinner and the sick.

The King doesn't stand apart from his people, he identifies with them in baptism. He reaches out to the underdog. He doesn't crush the brokenhearted or extinguish the hope of the helpless, poetically described as bruised reeds and smoldering wicks by Isaiah. He does the just the opposite. He heals the sick, cures the leper, casts out demons, raises the dead and restores the Humpty Dumpties of our world and does so without fanfare. In fact, according to our reading, Jesus expressly warns those he heals not to tell who he was. Rather than rely on self-promotion or choose to defend himself, this meek and gentle servant of the Lord continued to carry out his mission in faithful obedience to the Father even when threatened by the Pharisees. Such an attitude brings into stark contrast how unjustified the attacks of the Pharisees are in this chapter against Jesus. Fearful of losing control of the crowds and, having long ago lost the argument on the merits as to who this King is, they now resort to name-calling to deflect their unbelief and to persuade others to reject him as well. They claim Jesus is in league with the devil. They so harden their hearts that they no longer can hear the call of the Spirit through Jesus to repent and to come into the kingdom. Blinded by their sin, they feel justified in rejecting his message and, because he would heal on the Sabbath and violate their traditions, they were willing to plot his death.

This kind of King still has a way of catching us by surprise just as he did the folks of the 1st century. Like them, we struggle at times to grasp the nature of his kingship. Perhaps, we too often want a king of our own making rather than the King of the Kingdom. We want a king who will make it easy for us, who will provide a clear path for our dreams and goals to be fulfilled. When he doesn't we get frustrated.

King Jesus came on his terms and in his time. He came in humility, amidst bruised reeds and smoldering wicks, amongst broken, battered people to whom he brought good news. He still does. In other words, he comes to restore Humpty Dumpties just like us!

Action Step & Prayer Focus: Reflect on your view of Jesus' kingship – does it line up with his? If not, repent and submit to his Kingship on his terms.

Take-a-way: *Jesus can make Humpty Dumpty whole again as long as I'm willing to give him all the pieces of my life.*