



Reflection from Ben Babaran

As we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, we are called to work with our King, Jesus Christ. This King came as a shepherd as prophet Ezekiel spoke in the first reading. As a shepherd, he lived simply, purely, and graciously. This King is the one who died on the cross, rose from the dead, and is with his people.

And what then is expected of us?

In answer to this question and aligned with Sunday's Gospel from Matthew, may I suggest a message from Mother Teresa? A message that tells us what real authority is and what we, as followers of Jesus, should follow in the authority of love.

God is love, and unless we learn to love as Jesus loves, we will never touch God. Here is what Mother Teresa says:

"Many today are starving for ordinary bread. But there is another kind of hunger – the hunger to be wanted, the hunger to be loved, the hunger to be recognized. Nakedness too is not just the want of clothes, but also about loss of dignity, purity, and self-respect. And homelessness is not just want of a house; there is the homelessness of being rejected, of being unwanted in a throwaway society."

"The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty -- it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God."

"Lord, warm our cold hearts with your grace, so that we your disciples may produce the fruits of love as you have taught us and with this love we shall overcome the world."

Peace,

Ben