

For Unto Us... Government on His Shoulders

Reflect

1. How comfortable are you talking faith and politics with other people?
2. What is the good news that the government will be on the shoulders of the Messiah?

Read Your Bible

Isaiah 9:6

Mark 15:16-26

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. Compare and contrast your expectations of the Messiah in Isaiah, and what you read in Mark.
2. How can our expectations of the Messiah be out of sync with the Messiah we experience in Jesus?
3. How difficult is it to imagine the child spoken of in Isaiah 9 is destined to die?
4. When are you at your best acknowledging Jesus as your king?
5. When are you at your worst, or could do a lot better, considering Jesus is your king?
6. Disciples imitate their teacher; considering the text in Mark how can you follow your King?
7. With the Holy Spirit, how can you partner in the kingdom of God here and now?

Conclusion

I truly struggle with this line in Isaiah, "and the government will be on his shoulders." I believe it, no doubt, but there is so much going on here. I found it helpful to first look at the context. Simply put, the first hearers of Isaiah's prophecy were in trouble. Their nation was doomed. Yet in the doom, Isaiah also spoke of hope. That hope was in a child. Many scholars believe the first fulfilment of this prophecy was the child to be king, Hezekiah. One of those titles given was regarding the government on his shoulders. While Hezekiah was a glimmer of hope, his life and reign ended. It clearly seems that God was speaking through Isaiah to point to an even greater and eternal hope, Jesus. Jesus was no typical king. His birth and life were humble. He chose a donkey to ride over a horse. He washed feet. And he died. The cross was his throne. It was here where he was most publicly acclaimed, "king." But Jesus is no typical king. Most kings, when they die, stay dead. Not Jesus. He rose to new and everlasting life! He is reigning! Our task is to acclaim him our King and invite others to join the never-ending reign of Christ.

Pray

Heavenly Father, thank you for Jesus. Thank you for his extraordinary kingship. Help us always to call him our king, seeing in Him our salvation and everlasting life. By Your Holy Spirit help us to welcome His reign in our own lives and invite all people to call Him King. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.