

## Minister's Message – December 2010

### Child and King

The build-up has begun. The parties have started. The decorations are going up. The rush and the crush are underway. We are busy sending cards and buying presents. It is called the festive season, the season of joy and gladness.

Is this what Christmas is all about? Most of us have holidays. Holidays are a good time to slow down and relax, a time to gather our thoughts. Will you stop to think where you have come from and where you are going? You are moving towards your destiny whether you think about it or not. What is your destiny?

The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, some 2000 years ago, has a bearing on your destiny. How can a baby born so long ago have any impact on your destiny? Wise men came to Jesus looking for the King, the King of the Jews. King Herod took them seriously and tried to get rid of the baby Jesus. There were others who kept on trying to get rid of Jesus because they also took Jesus seriously. Do you take Jesus seriously?

'Can you rule out a challenge to the leadership?' is a question journalists love to ask our politicians. Pilate, like a journalist, asked Jesus 'Are you the King of the Jews?' (John 18:33). Was Jesus a threat to Caesar? Jesus knew it was a loaded question. The Jews were accusing him of being a traitor to Rome.

Jesus said 'My kingdom is not of this world'. The questioner was taken aback. 'Are you a king then?' he asked. 'You are right', said Jesus, 'This is why I was born and came into his world, that I should testify to the truth' (John 18:37). Pilate was in deep water. Truth was scary to him- as it is to lots of people today.

Jesus was born to testify to the truth. What is truth? Jesus said 'I am the truth'. The truth is that Jesus is King. He is King of kings, and his kingdom is not of this world. The angel told Mary that 'of his kingdom there will be no end' (Luke 1:33). The kingdom of Herod is no more. The kingdom of Rome is no more. All the kingdoms of the world will come to an end. Your rule over your life will come to an end.

Jesus said to Pilate, and he says to us 'Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice'. King Jesus is the truth. He is a merciful king who reaches out to people who are lost; people who are insecure and unsure about where they are going and where they will end up. He brings us into his kingdom when we confess our sin/rebellion and accept his rule in our life. In truth, Jesus must also be just and condemn his enemies, those who do not believe him, and accept him as King.

If you are celebrating the birth of Jesus think about who Jesus is. You cannot have him as a baby in a manger and not have him as King on the throne. You cannot accept his mercy without his justice, for he is truth – absolute truth. Remember the wise men from the East and be wise.

*Rev. Dr. Dennis K. Muldoon*