

Welcome again to the fretful ponderings of PJ. Sorry it is a day later than usual but pastoral duties pushed the ponderings back a day. And I only have a couple of ponderings for you but they are big questions that are always before the community. Still gives us all tonight and tomorrow to think about the texts for this Sunday – **Which is Christ the King Sunday** - The last Sunday in the church liturgical calendar. We are heading towards Advent at warp speed. Hopefully we can slow down a bit in the Advent season and ponder the hopeful expectation of Christ entering into history and his coming again at the end of all time. The texts for this Sunday are Matthew 25:31-46/Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24/Psalm 95:1-7a/Ephesians 1:15-23

Here we go this week with some more great judgment at the end of Matthew 25 with the sheep and the Goats. The first pondering I have for you all out there is, who or what do we really see? The Greek in the text makes it pretty clear that one group “Beheld” the folks in need and acted in mercy towards them, and in reality, did not even know that was what they were doing. They just saw the need and reacted. The other group did not “behold” those in the community in need – or maybe they did – but put conditions on their actions towards them. Our fear will get in the way of us blessing ministries that God has clearly put in front of us sometimes and then we behave like the goats. So, the question remains, who or what do really see and who or what do we really fear? The answer to those two questions just might lead us into a ministry.

The second pondering for you today is, “What’s in a name?” The Ephesians text talks about the name of Christ as being above every other name that is named. I officiated a funeral this morning and the person had a somewhat unusual name and so I spent some time looking into the origins of the name. Have you ever asked or wondered where your name came from, or, why your parents even chose to name you your particular, unique, name? Some of you may know the answer to these queries. This pondering is similar to the first pondering – What names do we put in front of our witness to the mercy and grace of God? Having the power to name or rename something is a great power rife with the possibility for abuse or grace.

The third pondering is probably where I will end up going with a sermon theme but I still have not decided yet. The pondering is do we really understand “KING” and do we really want one. We in our system are famous for telling the King of England to go and jump off a bridge if you know what I mean. Just insert the word king in front of any politician from any side of the aisle and all the in-between-aisles and you see just how silly it sounds to us. So, calling Christ our king must have some meaning other than the one given in the political realm – or does it - given the judgement inherent in our texts this Sunday. Maybe all we need to do is hold whoever is in office accountable to the demands of the King – **Christ** - which is to **see** and **behold** those in need. Just some ponderings to hopefully start you all down some different paths living with this living word of God!

Peace,  
Pastor Jeff