

## Homily Christ the King 2023

On reading today's Holy Scripture Passages, the phrase 'When all is said and done.\*', for whatever reason, comes to mind. I suppose it may be because the readings point us to what is most important, most essential, in the life of a disciple of Christ.

The Prophet Ezekiel reminds the shepherds of the Christian Community, 'when all is said and done', of their most important roles and responsibilities towards the people of God, 'The Lord says this, "As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered. I will pasture my sheep. I will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong." Thus according to Ezekiel, the good shepherd must constantly keep his flock in sight, rescue them when they stray, lead them to safe pasture, seek out the lost and bandage the wounded. He gives his sheep rest and restores strength to the 'heavy-laden and overburdened'. The true shepherd will focus on the most vulnerable of his flock, though he does not forget the "fat and healthy".

St Matthew in today's Gospel describes how we and the shepherds of the Christian Community will be held accountable by God when our life's pilgrimage is over, 'Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these little ones you did it to me."

Isn't it interesting that 'when all is said and done' what be important in Holy Scripture is how we have loved the poor, the hungry, the sick and dying, prisoners and the marginalised. The common denominator against which all of us bishops, priests and laity will be judged is if we have loved and tended to the needs of most vulnerable in our midst. So, 'When all is said and done', Christ the Servant King is a Servant King whose life and expectations of his disciples are so beautifully expressed in the hymn below:

From Heaven, you came helpless babe  
Entered our world, your glory veiled  
Not to be served but to serve  
And give Your life that we might live.

This is our God, The Servant King  
He calls us now to follow Him  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to The Servant King

There in the garden of tears  
My heavy load he chose to bear  
His heart with sorrow was torn  
"Yet not My will but Yours", He said.

This is our God, The Servant King  
He calls us now to follow Him  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to The Servant King

Come see His hands and feet  
The scars that speak of sacrifice  
Hands that flung stars into space  
To cruel nails surrendered.

This is our God, The Servant King  
He calls us now to follow Him  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to The Servant King

So, let us learn how to serve  
And in our lives enthrone Him  
Each other's needs to prefer  
For it is Christ we're serving.

This is our God, The Servant King  
He calls us now to follow Him  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to The Servant King

\*'When all is said and done' can be defined: When everything is finished, and things have settled, when everything has been considered. It is also used to emphasise the most important point for someone to remember about a situation. For example:

When all is said and done, summer is the best season of the year.