New Testament
Romans
8:31-39

Luke 2:22-38, Lk 2:26 - the Lord Christ

Date written: Dec. 24, 1949

Theme: Jesus the Lord

Proposition: Jesus is Lord over all that is truly important to man.

Text: Romans 8:39 ..."Christ Jesus our Lord."

Sources: Macartney's Illustrations, p. 48.
Websters Collegiate Dictionary, 5th. ed., p. 592.
Revised Standard Version of The New Testament

Places and dates preached: Dec. 25, 1949 Cranston, wyo.
Sundance, wyo., March 1, 1950 (P.M)
camp Cooke, Calif. chapel ~~Eve~~ c., 25 Dec 51
camp Rucker, Ala, 21 Dec 52, ch 6.

2. He indicated his nature as judge in at least one saying, recorded in Mt. 25:31-45. In this passage he says, "When the Son of man comes in his glory -- he will sit on his throne. Before him will be gathered all nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at his left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,'" "Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire --."

Indeed, ever since the earthly ministry of Jesus, people have seen in him that by which they are judged. He is indeed eternal judge over men, and thus lord of immortality.

3. For those who have faith in him, he is not a judge to be feared but is the one who assures them a place in heaven. "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." (Jn. 14:2,3). For the believer these words are assurance of the eternal and heavenly reward promised to them. Their belief is backed by the earthly fact that in earthly living a Christian way of life brings joys and satisfactions which are deeper and more lasting than any other kind. Truly, Jesus is Lord over immortality, in that he gives heavenly peace and joy to the faithful.

Conclusion:

Jesus is lord over nature, over the most important things in human life, and over eternity. These are the things most important to mankind, so Jesus is Lord over all that is truly important to man. He really is, as our text puts it, "Christ Jesus our Lord." Paul sums up our belief and feeling that Jesus is lord in these words of our Scripture:

Sermons
New Testament
Romans
8:31-39

for Stephen, martyred for his faith; for Paul, driven from country to country by his determination to tell others of Christ. Jesus is lord over loneliness too, if we but believe in him.

3. Jesus is lord over unemployment. How often we know of people who can't find work, or have that experience ourselves. Also, among people with steady jobs which bring in good incomes, we often hear the remark made about time off work that, "I wish I had something to do," and this, too, is a type of unemployment. There is an answer to all unemployment, and the answer is found in a strong faith in Jesus. Peter found a full-time employment following Jesus personally and learning from him. Paul continued as a tent maker, but spent his non-working hours working throughout the civilized world of his day for Jesus. John Wesley never lacked for something to do; either reading to learn more or preaching his faith. The citizen of today can find plentiful activity for his hours of unemployment if he will believe fully in Christ Jesus. Then the unemployed hours become filled with work for him: in the church, in service organizations, in personal evangelistic work in one's own community. Truly, Jesus is Lord over unemployment.

4. Jesus, them, is lord over disappointment & disillusionment, over loneliness, and over unemployment. In human life, these are problems of the first magnitude. He is truly lord over human affairs.

IV. <u>Jesus is Lord over immortality</u>.

1. He lives eternally himself. Such is the teaching of the Scriptures. Such was the faith of those who knew him best on earth. Such is the faith that has been vindicated by his influence through the years since.

RESPONSIVE READING

Job saith, There is a spirit in man. and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment.

Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?

The Proverbs say, The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding.

James saith, If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Jesus saith, Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and these are they which testify of me.

And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven:

But whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven

John saith (unison), **But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.**

Since 1816 the American Bible Society has been the agency of the Churches of America for the translation, publication and distribution of the Bible and its parts without note or comment. It serves the Churches in missionary work in America and in countries on all continents of the world, and promotes the use of the Bible. A five-dollar annual membership in the Society will provide at least five whole Bibles, or 25 New Testaments, or 330 Gospel portions in almost any language. To supply missionary Scriptures in America, throughout the world, and particularly for the war-ravaged countries, any gifts are welcome and may be sent to the

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

450 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 22, NEW YORK

NE 3,000,000

#U-120

3. His victory over death is the crowning evidence of his lordship over nature. Death is a natural thing, coming to every living thing to end its physical existence as a possessor of that mysterious thing called life. Those who were closest at Christ's death were the ones most sure he lived again. Their subsequent actions substantiate their belief that he conquered death. The strong acceptance of belief in his resurrection has been the driving and vital force of Christianity ever since. Truly, his victory over death was real; and truly it shows his lordship over nature.

III. Jesus is Lord over human affairs.

1. When he was crucified, the disciples were disillusioned; for here, they thought, was the end of their hopes for Messiah, savior. Then came the resurrection and his appearances to them, and disillusionment vanished. Their idea that he was Messiah had been no illusion after all! They simply had misinterpreted his messiahship. Now they understood. He had conquered their disillusionment. Men always have become disillusioned as to what happiness is; finding it does not come from wealth, power, or ~~fxxxxl~~ for long from the presence of loved ones. But ever since the Christ's earthly ministry people have found in Jesus the lord over their disillusionment; one who gives purpose to life. He is truly lord over disappointment and disillusionment.

2. Every person must live within himself, not daring or wanting to share some of his thoughts and feelings with others. To every life comes a time when one must be away from one's loved ones and friends, and loneliness enters in. To many older folks comes the loneliness of having most of their families and friends already in the grave. But in all this loneliness comes the assurance that Jesus loves us, is with us, and will never leave. He alone can conquer loneliness. permanently and effectively. He conquered it for Levi the tax collector, scorned by others;

4. In neither of these 2 senses was Jesus a lord when he was on earth, nor is he today. Of the authority which comes from money, he had none. He was completely lacking in commanding the respect which law-given authority commands.

5. These types of authority or lordship can quickly pass away, but the type of lordship possessed by Jesus deals with more lasting things. He was and is truly a master and a ruler, one with authority and power as from headship or leadership. It is the eternal nature of his leadership, headship, power or authority that makes him important to men today. It is the nature of his lordship in which we are interested here.

I. Jesus is Lord over nature.

1. In the record of his birth as given in Luke, we find a recognition of Christ's superiority over nature. The star, the angel's song, the wise men, all combine to make his birth unusual, and more than birth ordinarily is. The stressing of the virgin birth in Christian tradition has been emphasized to put across the idea that here is one who is Lord over natural birth. Certainly, if he is divine ...as we have seen in previous sermons ... he is superior to natural birth and lord over it. So it is fitting that at Christmas we should respectfully and devotedly remember the birth of him about whom we sing "Joy to the world, the lord is come."

2. The record of his life and ministry, as given in all the gospels, further indicates his lordship over nature. The healing of the sick which he did shows his understanding of natural forces. The miracle of water into wine at Cana; the stilling of the sea; the feeding of 5000, all point to the truth that Jesus controls nature. Interpret these events as you will, and still the unusualness of them for one of his day points to one who understood and used -- or controlled-- nature.

I. What is a Lord?

1. Webster's definition: "one who has power and authority, as from headship or leadership; a master; a ruler."

2. In a play I saw recently, one part was that of a maid in a household. Whenever addressed by the master or mistress of the house, she would always reply, "Yes sir," or "no sir," "yes ma'm," or "no ma'm,". She obeyed orders very carefully, often in such a particular manner that her part was really funny. The ones for whom she worked might in a sense be called her masters, rulers or lords, for they had authority and power over her. Their authority and power was the type that comes from money, from the ability to pay for subservience and obedience. Let them become unable to pay her, and the maid would quickly cease to obey them; would stop looking on them as lords.

3. A boy entered the army, and soon learned to salute commissioned officers, and to address them as "sir." He was careful to salute and properly to address an officer at all times, and partly because of this outward respect, he advanced in enlisted grade fairly rapidly. Inwardly, however, he hated commissioned officers and felt no real respect for them. He considered them snobbish and mostly undeserving of their rank. He thought the rank system most undemocratic. When finally he was released from service and became a civilian again, he made it a point to show disrespect and indifference to every commissioned officer he met, even being insulting to them, at times. Such authority as the officers wielded, so far as this young man was concerned, was the authority of law with physical force back of it. Take away the law-given ~~xxxxxxx~~ right of officers to be his superiors, and his outward respect for them quickly vanished. His service period up, the officers were no longer his lords, in any sense of the word.

Introduction:

1. The first church building dedicated to the worship of God in western Pennsylvania was the church the Moravians built in 1771 on the Beaver River for the Delaware Indians. The Moravians were founded by Count Zinzendorf, who was converted in an art gallery in Dusseldorf by contemplating a painting of Christ on the cross, which had the inscription, "I did this for thee. What hast thou done for me?"

This painting was done by an artist three hundred years before. When he had finished his first sketch of the face of the Redeemer, this artist called in his landlady's little daughter and asked her who she thought it was. The girl looked at it and said, "It is a good man." The painter knew that he had failed. He destroyed the first sketch, and after praying for greater skill he finished a second. Again he called the little girl in and asked her to tell whom she thought the face represented. This time the girl said shethought it looked like a great sufferer. Again the painter knew that he had failed, and again he destroyed the sketch he had made. After meditation and prayer, a third sketch was made. When it was finished, he called the girl in a third time and asked her who it was. Looking at the portrait, the girl knelt down and exclaimed, "It is the Lord!"

That alone makes the coming of Christ meaningful to the world -- not that a good man came, not that a wise teacher came, not that a great sufferer came, but that God came -- Immanuel, the Lord.

2. At Christmas we make much of the Christ child. But many use his birthday only as an excuse to look for a handout; as an occasion to get drunk and otherwise dissipate. Whenever we approach Christmas thus, we are seeing Christ not for what he is, but for a patron saint, a pagan figure, a symbol of worldly pleasure only. It is Christ the Lord that counts, and he is important only when he is viewed as the Lord.

Sermons
New Testament
Romans
8:31-39

"..in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 8:37-39)

Sermons
New Testament
Romans
8:31-39