

¹¹May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven,

Narrator [Rev'd Janet Harman, from the lectern, and then sits down to make room for Tim Taylor to come to lectern]: Today's worship has been a synopsis of the whole Christian year, liturgically. Today, Christ the King Sunday, is the pinnacle of the whole Christian year. Into that setting we find the characters of the television show, *Home Improvement*.

"Tim Taylor," portrayed by Mark Stotler, believes that if little does good, lot does better." No problem in life that can't be fixed by a good super-charge. "Wilson," the next door neighbor whose face is never seen, but whose wisdom is solid, often provides Tim with more "regular size" wisdom for handling the stuff of life.

Tim Taylor [walking in from side door – is looking at the bulletin for today.] **Wow! Just look at all that ground we covered. Here it is; the whole church year in one Sunday. We ought to do that once or twice during the year, and then call off church for the rest of the time. TWO supercharged Sundays a year, and then – Slam-Bam – done for the whole year.**

Wilson [still raking leaves from behind the fence:] **Hi-dee-ho, Tim. I guess that means that we could show the kick-off of the first week's NFL game, a 2 minute Sports Center summary 17 times, and then the highlights of the Super Bowl, and that would be all that we need ...**

Tim: [interrupting:] **Well, I wouldn't ...**

Wilson, [re-interrupting:] **Oh, even better. We could show you and Al walking into the shop, hooking on your tool belts, pan the audience once, hear the intro for *Tool Time*, and then cut to the final 2 minutes to see how it all came out.**

Tim: **You'd kind of lose the important stuff in the middle, if you did that, oh Man-of-many-thoughts.**

Wilson, [interrupting:] Oh, I see – when we consider how from the moment God emptied Himself of His glory in heaven and became a human, so that we could actually see what “made in the image of God” is supposed to look like AND then get him nailed to the cross and “up from the grave he arose,” and sent back to heaven where He won’t get in our way anymore – you DON’T think that maybe that might lose some of the important stuff in the middle, right?

Tim: You’re getting kind of wound up there, big guy. It was just a suggestion. I mean what you said is pretty much what the Apostle’s Creed does, isn’t it. Miraculous birth, sad death, miraculous resurrection, and then back up to heaven to sit on God’s right hand – which, by the way, IS proof that God is left handed.

Wilson, [interrupting:] Yes, indeed, I am a little wound up, Tim. You see – from the time Jesus was born – the firstborn of all creation – when he became flesh, so that we can see what the invisible God looks and acts and thinks and feels like – so that we, too, can live up to the image in which we were created – until the time that He told us that He would never desert nor leave us – the Whole Jesus Enterprise – in everything He did, said, taught, and demonstrated – was about the Kingdom of Heaven.

The whole message of His life – not calling Himself the Messiah, but just “Son of Man” – was to show us how it’s possible to live in the World of Five Senses as well as in the Kingdom of Heaven right here at hand – and people who want to boil Him down to a “get out of hell card.” Throw the message out the window, and just worship the messenger.

Wound up, Tim? Yes, I’m wound up. Christ the King Sunday is meant to be a recognition that IT’S ALL ABOUT THE KINGDOM. And by the way, Christ is the King – OF A KINGDOM!

Wound up, Tim? Yes, I’m wound up. We talked 2 Sundays ago about how the Pop Culture Church was never Jesus’ Way. Last Sunday, me wee sister Winnie talked to about the fundamental importance of relationships. And now, on Christ the King Sunday, which tries to capture the essence of everything that God and Jesus did so that we could “get it,” I see and listen to people who want to pitch it all out the window, and leave Jesus as a Lucky Rabbit’s Foot key chain.

Tim: OK. OK. How ‘bout let’s just go back to raking your leaves, and I’ll not mess with the Church calendar, after all. It was just a suggestion – you know, for saving time.

Wilson: **No, Tim. I'm serious about this. Things have got to change.** [Wilson takes off his hat and begins to step out from behind the fence....]

Tim: **Hold on, here, a minute, Wilson. If you come out from behind that fence, then things will never be the same again. It might just ruin the show.**

Wilson: **You're right, Tim. When Jesus stepped out of heaven and put on human flesh; it changed everything. No more Heaven as just Pie-in-the-sky-in-the-sweet-by-and-by. Now, KINGDOM OF HEAVEN RIGHT HERE.**

Power to ordinary people, to do miraculous things.

Relationship was the key – where the invisible God could be seen, and touched. Jesus changed it all. The Kingdom was at hand, because the King was in our midst.

And NOTHING would ever be the same.

Just like nothing will ever be the same between you and me. [Fully comes out from behind fence, face to face with Time.] **Now we can see each other face to face. Now we can have a real relationship. Don't try to put me back behind the fence. Know me. See the potential of our relationship!**

Tim: **Wilson, you're not just talking about me and you, are you? You're also talking about God and Jesus and all of us, right?**

Wilson: **My goodness, Tim. you are MUCH smarter than Jill or Al say. I think you're onto something here. Yes, my good turbo-charged friend. It really is about God and Jesus and all of us. And when we live together in this world of our Five Senses, as well as in the Kingdom of Heaven, then we can begin to understand everything He came to show us. And then, one day, after walking with your left foot in the World of Five Senses, and your right foot in the Kingdom of Heaven ... left/right, left/right ... one day, you'll encounter a doorway called death, and you'll just slide your left foot over and continue walking with the King. Yes, my friend, THAT REALLY IS what it's all about.**

JANET: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.