

**9/25/22 Sermon: The Refugee King**

## MEDITATE

Queen Elizabeth II passed away on September 8th, marking the end of her 70 year reign over 32 sovereign states. Tens of thousands of people waited up to 24 hours to see her lying in state. This story shows us that people long for a royal presence.

**What examples of royal stories or movies can you think of? Are they good or bad rulers?**

**Read Exodus 1:16-22 and Matthew 2:13-15.**

## EQUIP

**What makes a mad king “mad?”**

First: a mad king is fearful and paranoid because he wants to control others. They assume things about others, expect things from others, and are entitled. They judge and threaten others when things don't go your way. That's what being a mad king looks like: playing God, like Adam and Eve.

Second: a mad king is selfish because he only cares about himself and people like him. Pharaoh and Herod disposed of those who were unwanted, be they infants or women or slaves. Their biases blind them to the value of others.

**Who are the mad kings in your life? Before you criticize tyrants and bullies, have you considered that you are capable of being a mad king?**

## CULTIVATE

Jesus is not controlling or selfish. Jesus is not a mad king. Jesus was a refugee as a child. And Jesus was a refugee as an adult: he had no place to lay his head! He was a citizen of a conquered nation, and even his own nation rejected him. All his true followers are refugees in a foreign world with foreign values. They endure hostility, false accusations, and even death for his name.

### **Why is Jesus' refugee status so significant?**

God commanded Israel not to oppose refugees, remembering that they had been refugees in Egypt (Ex. 23:9). But many Americans are removed from the reality of political oppression and war. We are obsessed with our own comfort and security, so we don't understand those who face danger and death. Or we say we do, but our time, money, and attention doesn't show it. We say we worship Jesus. But our consumerist, imperialist biases prevent us from acknowledging the true Jesus, who was a refugee.

We hear this phrase all the time: "being saved from sin." But what does being "saved from sin" even mean? If you want to be saved from sin, you must repent of your own self-assertion, pride, and arrogance. Jesus defeats the mad kings by defeating sin. But if you are still obsessed with writing your own story, you remain in bondage to sin.

**In what ways do you think or behave like a mad king? What does it look like to follow a Refugee King?**