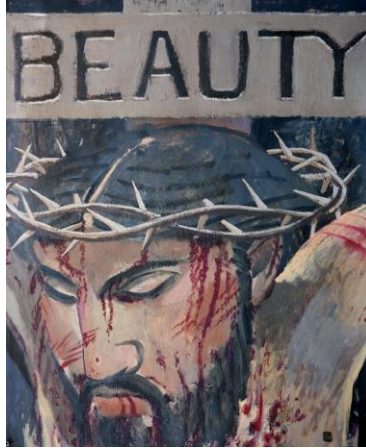


FIGUREHEAD, MASCOT, OR LORD?



Moving from scripture to the actual life of the Body of Christ at this hour, we see a contrast.

In scripture the disciples look to Jesus with child-like submission.

They marvel at his words.

They tremble before his signs.

When Peter sees his net overflowing with fish, he is moved with fear.

“Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!”

When Peter tries to put Jesus in a pigeonhole next to Moses and Elijah, he is rebuked by heaven.

“This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.”

One thing was clear to them:

Jesus is Lord.

This was their only creed.

Jesus' lordship was the polestar fact of their lives.

Jesus was not their buddy.

Jesus was not their mascot.

Jesus was not their logo/figurehead.

Jesus was their Lord!

In the Body of Christ today Jesus' place is not as clear.

We hear Jesus' name.

We sing his praises.

We claim to be his followers.

Do we approach him with child-like submission?

Do we tremble before his glory?

Do we even know him as our Friend?



Sometimes Jesus has to remind us.

Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. (John 13)

Sometimes he has to rebuke us.

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

And Peter took him and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men." (Matthew 16)

Sometimes he has to make it plain.

You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. (John 13)



It is a dangerous thing to say, "Lord, Lord," and ignore his commands.

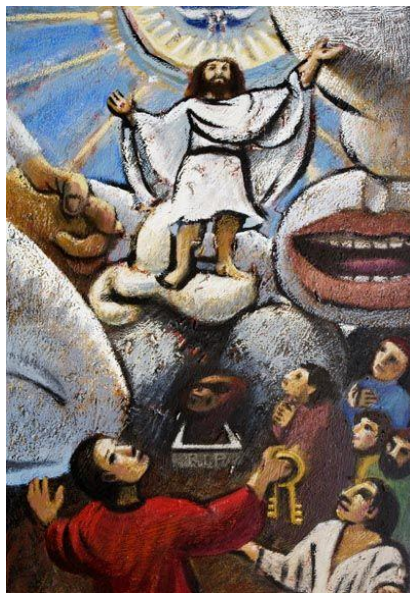
It is a fatal thing to say, "Lord, Lord," with the mouth, and ignore him with the heart.

"Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy."

Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay every one for what he has done.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Revelation 22



Message: Richard E. Bieber November 2021

Featured Artist: Courtesy and thoughtfulness of Wayne Forte at wayneforte.com

Prayer: Jesus, Lord...may you be more to us than just a mascot, a figurehead, a sense of identity, a creed, a theology, or even a name. May you be real to us, truly be our Lord and Master. May we be in awe of you, trembling at your holiness and goodness. May you be the center of our lives, the call of our hearts, our true master who we want to follow and obey with all we have. Amen.

Maranatha Mirror

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WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN