Christ the King A - Comments/questions on the lessons for November 22, 2026

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

- What does it mean now to be a "fat sheep" or a "lean sheep"? Which would you consider yourself to be?

Psalm 95:1-7

- For as uplifting as the first part of this psalm is, read the second part of this psalm:

"O that today you would listen to his voice!
Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
when your ancestors tested me,
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.
For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they do not regard my ways.'
Therefore in my anger I swore,
'They shall not enter my rest.'"

Given the second half of this psalm, how is our worship of God meant to shape us? What does it mean to listen to God's voice? What does it mean to soften our hearts?

Ephesians 1:15-23

- Note how Paul says here that the power that raised Jesus from the dead and seated him in glory is the same power at work with us now. What does that mean for you?

Matthew 25:31-46

- Note that when the parable begins, the Son of Man divides the ***nations*** like a shepherd divides sheep and goats. In other words, this is not simply talking about individual behavior. It is talking about the behavior of communities, even of nations. What does this mean for us as a church? As a country?
- Churches often like to think that the division at the end of time will be based on belief. The king here divides the two groups based on behavior and on whether people are treated with justice. How might a focus on behavior rather than belief change how we perceive the church? How might it change our relationships with other faiths?
- Note also that the groups do not even realize that they are (or are not) doing these acts of mercy. It is a natural response of their lives. How do we develop such a response in our own lives?