Knights’ Ceremony

A medieval knights’ ceremony was a very special occasion in the development of a knight where a young man acknowledges and is entrusted with certain truths and makes a commitment in living his life in accordance with those truths. In working toward knighthood, a young boy would normally begin his training as a page, where he would learn the basics of responsibility and character. The next step would be to become a squire. A squire is not yet a knight, but would acknowledge many of the truths of knighthood while he would continue his study and training under the direct leadership of a knight. The last step is becoming a knight. What distinguishes a knight is his public commitment before God and others of his full commitment to truth, honor, and justice and allegiance to his Master, or Lord. Knights would take an oath, normally as part of a ceremony, calling upon God to witness the truth of what they are saying and that they sincerely intend to do it. A knight’s service to his Lord or King, would often take the form of fighting to defend the kingdom with swords or crossbows and ensure justice for all people of the kingdom.

In our order of Knights in Training, we have placed less emphasis on fighting with swords and shooting with a crossbow and have spent more time on learning the heart of our true King in heaven and his son Jesus Christ. We are learning what it means to be a Christian man, including a commitment to reject being passive, taking responsibility, leading courageously and expecting God’s greater award. This means to reject the way of the first Adam our first father, who did none of these things, and choose to follow the second Adam, Jesus Christ, who did them all perfectly. We have learned what it means to follow a Code of Conduct, based on God’s word the Bible, not to win his acceptance, but to demonstrate our love to him through obedience because of what he has already done for us. We have learned that to live an honorable life is to live for a higher cause – that is for Jesus Christ and his glory, because that is how we were created to live.

There are many similarities between being a knight and being a Christian. Both knights and Christians acknowledge allegiance to God and King. Our true king is God himself and there is no one that deserves higher honor. He is perfect in power, knowledge, goodness, holiness, justice, mercy and love. Both knights and Christians make commitments to their Lord, or Master, whereby they willingly choose to reject a life of selfishness for one in service to the Lord and to others. They choose a life of truth, justice, honor and love. They both believe that it is better to die than to dishonor their Lord. They both belong to a group, an order or church, where they work, serve and grow others in the service of the Lord.

There are, however, some differences between a knight and a Christian. A Christian, at whatever age, can become a child of the King upon repenting, or turning, from a life of sin and selfishness and trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior. He knows that trusting in Jesus as a substitutionary sacrifice for his sins is the only way to be made right with God because are all sinners and rightly deserve God’s right and fair punishment for sin. A Christian needs to pray to God for rescue from sin through Jesus Christ. He then receives a new life in Jesus and is given God’s gift of the Holy Spirit that will help him to understand the Bible and obey it. A Christian will demonstrate his commitment to his Lord and to others through baptism where he shows others that he wants to be identified with Jesus Christ in his death, burial and resurrection to new life. A Christian will continue to learn and grow in knowledge and truth. He will grow in love for his King and for those made in his image. A true Christian is ready to suffer for his King, but knows that in spite of difficulty and pain in this life he will one day be in the presence of the Lord for all eternity. A knight, on the other hand, can never become a child of an earthly king. A knight’s oath or promise can never save him from God’s anger against sin, what we call wrath.

As part of our ceremony today we will make a commitment as Knights in Training to become squires aiming for full knighthood. This commitment doesn’t save you because that is something between you and God. Perhaps you have already made a decision to trust Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. One day you will demonstrate that publicly through baptism. Perhaps you have not yet made such a decision. I would encourage you to think about it carefully while you are still young. If you have questions about it you can talk with Glen or me, your parents, pastor or Sunday school teacher. This commitment will be a way for you to acknowledge the truth of what we have been teaching and your desire to life in this way in response to God’s love and goodness.

Commitment:

Do you believe that the Prince is the Son of the King? That Prince Jesus came to earth and died that when you repent of your sin and trust in him that you shall live? That he sits on the right hand of the Father, the King, and will return one day to rule the earth? Do you desire to give your wholehearted allegiance to him and to him above all others?

I do

Do you seek to become a full knight of Prince Jesus one day taking action, accepting responsibility, leading courageously and expecting the greater reward as you reject the path of Adam and follow the one of Prince Jesus throughout your life?

I do

Do you seek to uphold the Code of Conduct as described in the Word of God, the Bible, and live a life of truth, justice and honor?

I do

Do you seek to live your life for a higher cause than yourself and to the glory of the Prince Jesus and God the Father?

I do

I dub thee …., Squire and Knight in Training!