

Call of the King (part I) (adapted from *Choosing Christ in the World* by Joe Tetlow, SJ)

-After I have accepted God's loving gaze on me, I offer my whole self to Him.

-Grace I seek: Here, I want to be the kind of person who will hear when Jesus Christ the King summons me, and not be shy or hang back, but quick and persevering in following His lead.

-Imagine a grand nation with a tremendous people. See how they have been troubled and tested. For their nation's affairs have gotten badly botched. They feel tense and worried. Now imagine that they get a new leader. This leader sounds solid. A person who seems to have been handpicked by God for his people. The leader has unsurpassed charisma, is a physically beautiful person, shows tremendous political adroitness, makes people believe that good times are definitely on the way. Imagine that the people grow very, very content.

Then imagine for yourself the program that this fresh, excellent leader proposes for the people. With care and resoluteness, the nation's enemies can be overcome or won over. The economy needs careful overhauling—but it will be painful. Civil rights have eroded. Education stumbles along in disarray. Any program that could possibly succeed will require a lot of belt-tightening, and many groups will have to work through some very tough questions together.

Then imagine that the leader gathers a special group. To this group, the leader gives a personal invitation. He gathers you and stands before you. Imagine that you sit right in front, listening. "I am to inaugurate this program. I am going to see that it succeeds. Anyone who wants to work with me on it will have to put up with what I will put with—extravagantly long hours, pitilessly hard work, going without not just luxuries but even without basic comforts, getting battered by public opinion and the media, and actually running the risk of being assassinated. But I can anyone who listens: This program will succeed and make millions of people's lives vastly better." What kind of person could reject such an invitation? What kind of person could accept it? Would I accept that invitation? Would I want to work with that kind of leader? Suppose I left that special group and walked away from the charismatic leader—what would I feel about myself later on? And you imagine accepting the invitation. **What do you do?**



Call of the King (part II) (adapted from *Choosing Christ in the World* by Joe Tetlow, SJ)

-If a charismatic secular leader could demand loyalty (and many less excellent ones get unquestioning loyalty from their friends), what about Jesus Christ, whom God has made eternal King?

I let my fancy roam. I imagine Jesus surrounded by 72 disciples. They sit on a hill. Jesus talks with them, saying something like this: "It is my will to win over the whole of humankind. No enemy can defeat me or finally interfere with my Kingdom. I will draw all to myself. I will stay with my friends and we will labor and struggle, watch and pray. No one will have to go through anything that I do not myself go through. Whoever works with me and suffers with me will also share the glory of the Kingdom with me. I assure you, I will see my project crowned with total success." After feeling how wonderfully attractive Jesus' invitation is, Read SpEx 96 – 98.