

DECEMBER 6 & 7, 2003

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KING

Matt Heard, Senior Pastor

Part 1: The Wonderful Counselor

Isaiah 9:6

It's a common question. "Who are you going to spend Christmas with?" The assumption is that of course you will be celebrating Christmas, the only question is with whom. But, in reality, truly celebrating Christmas depends entirely on who you're with. The only way to authentically celebrate Christmas is with Jesus Christ! Not with a sentimental tip of our religious hat towards the mascot of a holiday, but with a heart submitted to His Kingship.

When we hear the word, "king," we immediately think of someone being over us in authority. That is true, but when it comes to the Kingship of Jesus Christ, that statement is only partially true. When considering Jesus Christ's ultimate Kingship over all creation as well as over us, it's important to remember that His Kingship is also intended to be for us. To relate with Christ as my King means not only submitting to the reality that He is *over* me, but also *for* me.

During this series, we will take a closer look at four facets of Christ's Kingship. They are described through the prophet Isaiah. He is addressing a people like you and me—people who longed for the coming of the Messiah, the King. And as the King is described, we hear very clearly that He is indeed *for* us.

The first description of Jesus Christ in Isaiah 9:6 presents Him as the "Wonderful Counselor." This Christmas, are you in need of wonder-filled counsel? It could be that "winter" describes not only the season of weather we're in right now, but it could also be a word that describes what's happening in your heart: a "winter" within your soul that includes longer periods of darkness, coldness, storms, isolation, lack of growth, inhibited vision...

At the heart of the gospel message is the Truth that, in the midst of your heart's winter, the King shows up...not to start a hollow holiday, but to be your "Wonderful Counselor"!

When I embrace Christ as my Wonderful Counselor, I am submitting to four ways He counsels me:

1. He _____ for us.

2. He _____ with us.

3. He _____ to us.

4. He _____ to us.