

Who's In Charge?

Now when they told Jotham, he went and stood on the top of Mount Gerizim, and lifted his voice and called out. Thus he said to them, "Listen to me, O men of Shechem, that God may listen to you. **8** Once the trees went forth to anoint a king over them, and they said to the olive tree, 'Reign over us! **9** But the olive tree said to them, 'Shall I leave my fatness with which God and men are honored, and go to wave over the trees? **10** Then the trees said to the fig tree, 'You come, reign over us! **11** But the fig tree said to them, 'Shall I leave my sweetness and my good fruit, and go to wave over the trees? **12** Then the trees said to the vine, 'You come, reign over us! **13** But the vine said to them, 'Shall I leave my new wine, which cheers God and men, and go to wave over the trees? **14** Finally all the trees said to the bramble, 'You come, reign over us! **15** The bramble said to the trees, 'If in truth you are anointing me as king over you, come and take refuge in my shade; but if not, may fire come out from the bramble and consume the cedars of Lebanon.' - Judges 9: 7-15

1. Read the entire chapter.
2. In this parable- Abimelech- who asked to be King- even though he had no right - is mentioned as being the "Bramble" or Thornbush. Why do you think Jotham used this term to identify Abimelech?
3. Read verses 16-20. What will be the results of the Israelites accepting Abimelech as King? Did this really happen? (vs. 22-57)
4. In the Easter story before the crucifixion the crowd shouted "We have no King but Caesar!" (John 19:15). How does this story of Kingship relate to the one in Judges 9?
5. Since the fall, mankind has always struggled with being in charge. The most difficult part about serving Christ is it requires surrender. Is this difficult for you?
6. On this day we celebrate Christ's Resurrection (Luke 24). When Jesus conquered death He proved to all that HE IS KING! The question for all of us today is - "Is He King of YOUR LIFE?"

This Week's Challenge: "Jesus, You proved to all that YOU ARE KING! You are King of the entire universe. This includes MY LIFE. Today Jesus, I declare YOU as King of my entire life.- In Jesus' Name - Amen"