

GOSPEL MESSAGE

November 22, 2026

CHRIST THE KING / LECTIONARY 34

Jesus' Leadership Style

Many workplaces invite staff members to determine their unique leadership styles through inventories or assessments. Countless resources are available to aid this process, from short online quizzes to lengthy books that probe people's motivations for leading in particular ways. The results of these assessments can reflect how people's personalities and values interact with their natural skills and gifts. When coworkers discuss the results together, they can determine how best to work as a team, playing to one another's strengths.

On this Christ the King Sunday, we might ponder this question: What is Jesus' leadership style? The gospel writers offer countless examples of Jesus leading his ragtag community of followers. He shares meals, preaches and teaches, offers healing, and sometimes gets into hot water with religious and political authorities. Looking at different facets of his ministry, we might say his compassion and relational strength shine through in moments of one-on-one connection and healing; his strong teaching presence and communication gifts dominate during lengthy discourses like the Sermon on the Mount; his generous hospitality stands out in the miracles of multiplication and in countless meals shared with people of all sorts.

Today's gospel reading presents a very particular side of Jesus, which we might add to this list of his leadership qualities: He is a visionary, prophetic advocate for justice. His instructions to feed, clothe, and visit people who live on the margins offer us an image of Jesus that challenges his followers to follow the call to work for justice. How do Jesus' strong words move us to live differently? How will we and the church respond to the call to justice that echoes through the ages?

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