

## Christ the King

Daniel 7:13-14, Ps 93, Revelations 1:5-8, John 18:33-37

On Friday I was listening to National Public Radio as I was going to work. They had a story about a boy named Brian Korbon.

Brian was almost 9 years old when he told his parents, Dr. Gregg and Kathryn Korbon ,that he wouldn't make it to his "double digits."

Concerned Kathryn took her son to see a therapist, but nothing came of it. Brian seemed to be a happy and well adjusted child.

Brian hadn't wanted a birthday party when he turned 9; but in the next several months, he decided he wanted a party after all.

Then one day, Kathryn came home to find Brian pulling a red wagon down the driveway, filled with his toys and camping gear.

"I'm ready to go on my trip," the boy said.

Kathryn replied, "Brian, I'll be so sad if you leave."

"Mom, I have to go."

His mother explained that Brian couldn't leave because of his upcoming party, so he relented.

But before the celebration — planned for May 8, 1993 — Brian wrote letters to some of his friends, and put a sign on his door that read, "Brian's on a trip. Don't worry about me."

Brian played in a Little League game after the party. Though he was the smallest player on the team and normally was afraid of the ball, his father recalls that during that game, Brian was fearless.

He was walked in his first at-bat. The next batter hit a triple — Brian ran the bases, charging across home plate.

"He was the happiest little boy you ever saw. He gave me a high-five and went into the dugout," Gregg recalls, "and then he collapsed."

Brian died that day of heart failure. His parents, who were not religious, realized then what Brian had been trying to tell them all that time.

Gregg recalls. "And I had this sense that if I could bring Brian back, it would be for me, not for him — that he had finished. Any unfinished business was just mine."

Many of us live lives of unfinished business.

We are looking for answers, trying to understand what is going on around us.

Jesus in our Gospel Reading today tells us that he came into the world to testing to the truth.

What is that truth?

What do you believe?

Daniel believed in a Messiah who would triumph over all of those who opposed God. He believed in an ultimate victory for the righteous, and that everyone will end up worshipping God in an everlasting kingdom.

In the Book of Revelation, John uses Daniel's writing to indicate the Jesus is the Son of Man who will bring victory over the Earth.

Jesus says in our Gospel reading, today: “Anyone committed to the truth hears my voice.”

I believe Brian heard that voice and knew the truth in his own life.

He didn’t ask for presents at his last birthday party. He just wanted his friends to come and spend time with him.

The things of this world occupy our minds constantly.

Money

Power

Material Things

None of these things really matter

What truly matters is love

Jesus is king of a kingdom that is not of this world. It is not a kingdom that fights and spills blood, but a kingdom that testifies to truth. It will not kill for truth, it will die for it.

That is why many years ago, Pope Pius XI instituted the feast of Christ the King. Not as a celebration of some warlord God, but as a celebration of the truth...that God is a God of love and peace.

Back then, the Pope hoped that the world plagued by war and strife would find peace in accepting Christ as their King.

Many years have passed and still the world has still not embraced the concepts of love and peace. The world has not yet embraced the King who stood on trial before a Roman Governor.

The world has yet embraced the man who offered his life for the lives of others.

But we can embrace that man

We can make a difference in our lives and in the lives of others

You see, we all have a purpose.

We all have meaning.

Look at Brian. His father recognized that his life was complete.

He had fulfilled his purpose and he continues to do so through his story because in his life we see the hand of God.

We all have beginnings and we will all will have an ending (an Alpha and a Omega) when God's hand that reaches out to grasp us and draw us to himself.

Then we can say like Brian did “On a trip. Don’t worry about me.”