



The Cathedral of St. Andrew - Honolulu

Sermon: Year B – Advent 3 – December 17, 2017: King Kamehameha V

This morning we remember and honor the birthday of King Kamehameha V as I approach my one-year anniversary here at the Cathedral, back as priest-in-charge after being away for almost seven years.

And this time around, I have the gift and good fortune to be able to live on the Cathedral property itself and one of the things that I like to do in the late afternoons and early evenings is to stroll around the grounds and take in the essence of our royal founders, praying that I'm doing right by them by honoring God's will and giving God glory.

And one of my favorite spots is on the mauka Ewa side of the Cathedral – outside – because I love to take a look at the cornerstone and its memorial marker, the cornerstone the King Kamehameha V laid in March 1867, 150 years ago this year.

I love to pause at the cornerstone and then look up toward the bell tower of the Cathedral. And whenever I do that I find it remarkable that out of one stone that the king laid, this magnificent edifice and house of worship evolved and came to be.

The king was one man from whom many things came to be; things that continue to do to this day. The Royal Order of the Kamehameha for one. And also the Prince Lot Hula Festival. King Kamehameha V lives on in legacy – in legacy that has become much bigger than the one man, the one stone, if you will.

As we approach the arrival of the Christ child in our midst, that one, solitary child; it gives us pause to reflect on what you and I can do as individual followers of that child. What we do to endeavor to build up the Kingdom of God may not seem like that much to us as individuals, but in God's time, who knows?

I look back over my life as a schoolteacher for 11 years and now 12 years as a priest and I can say that in one way or another, I have touched and/or affected close to 25,000 lives through my teaching, preaching and ministry. And if we multiply that by the number of people who are here in the Cathedral this morning, think of how astronomical that number would be – perhaps as numerous as the stars, as God told Abraham in the Book of Genesis.

So, for this Cathedral, that may be the King's greatest legacy to us, that out of one stone, many great things can come to be. And you and I carry that legacy on through our prayers, through our thoughts, through our words, and through our deeds. What the outcome will be, well that's in God hands, and for now our job to offer up what we do with the prayer that it will give God glory and that it will be in alignment with God's will.

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If we take that away from this commemorative Sunday for the King, we will continue to add to the legacy he leaves us, and surely that will be pleasing in God's sight.

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, so that we following the example King Kamehameha V, who laid the cornerstone of this Cathedral Church, may in our vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.