

# **Sermon on Receive Jesus and Become Royalty**

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**Text:**

**John 1:10-13** <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

## **1 Introduction**

The essence of this passage is that when you receive Jesus you become a prince/princess of the most important throne in the world. Some of you are princes/princesses of some village or town. In fact, someone once said every Ghanaian claims to be a prince/princess. It is actually not true that every Ghanaian is a prince/princess. We know that becoming a prince/princess is through birth into a royal family. If you are born as a prince/princess of Ga Mantse you cannot later on decide to become a prince/princess of Asantehene. So a prince/princess or pauper of one kingdom cannot later on decide to become a prince/princess of another kingdom.

But our passage is telling us that when you receive Jesus you become a prince/princess of the most prestigious and most powerful and the only everlasting kingdom – the Kingdom of God. So how is this possible? Is it really true? This must be a very exciting development for anyone who wants to become royalty. Let's find out how.

## **2 To receive Jesus means extending him full hospitality**

**Jesus knocks at the most importune time.**

Let's say it is early in the morning, about 6:00AM, and you hear a knock on the door. I am sure you will not automatically open the door. You will look through the peeping hole and see who it is. Seeing who it is, you will then decide whether to open the door or not. If you open the door you might invite the person in or stand in the doorway and ask him to state his business. If you invite him in you might not be hospitable to him. You may say to him, "Come in. What do you

want? I don't have time. Say what you want and go away." In the same way Jesus stands knocking at doors every hour and every minute. How do people respond to Jesus when he knocks?

**Some don't open the door to Jesus.**

When Jesus knocks, some look through the peeping hole, see him, and decide they will not open the door for him. They are the ones who have seen who Jesus is, all the good that he can bring, but they are obstinate and will not open the door. They are the ones that tell you "when you go to church pray for me," but they will never come to church.

**Some open the door but don't let him in.**

When Jesus knocks, some open the door and stand in the doorway and ask dismissively, "what do you want?" They are the ones that come to church on special days. They don't want Jesus to come into their lives. They want to come to Jesus only when they feel it necessary or when they think they need Jesus because they are in some trouble.

**Some invite him in but are not hospitable to him.**

When Jesus knocks, some invite him in but they don't give him a seat, don't offer a drink, don't give him food, and don't welcome him to treat their home as his home. They are the people who come to church regularly but don't want Jesus to do anything in their lives. They don't want him to move the furniture, or clean out the closet in fear of finding some skeletons, or go to the master bedroom in fear of disposing off some security blankets, or go into the fridge in fear of seeing and discarding some rotten food. They don't want and don't have a relationship with Jesus.

A woman used to come to our all-night prayer sessions all the time. During one all-night prayer session when we laid hands on her she began to spin and shake uncontrollably and we prayed for her until she calmed down. Since that episode, she has not come to all-night prayer sessions again. She obviously had invited Jesus but didn't want him to rearrange her life.

**Some invite him and give him full hospitality.**

Finally, there are those who invite Jesus in when he knocks. They tell him, "Jesus, my house is yours and I am yours. In fact I don't want my house anymore, take it and give me your house."

They are those who are completely indoctrinated by God. They have been transformed by the renewing of their minds. They have become a new creation – the old has gone, the new has come.

*What made these people receive Jesus?*

### **3 Those who received Jesus are the ones who believed in his divinity**

Those who invited Jesus in and gave him full and complete hospitality are the ones who believed that Jesus is the incarnate God, the son of God, and that he died, bodily resurrected, ascended, and seated at the right hand of God. Not only do they believe these things but they also surrender their life completely to Jesus in response to their belief. They respond to Jesus the way you will respond to a highly-placed dignitary.

**When you receive a dignitary you give him reverential treatment.**

Dr. Shirley Jackson, President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where I attended graduate school, came to visit us at home. When she knocked on the door we received her in as a Ghanaian receives someone with hospitality. If you come to my house I will receive you with the same hospitality. But then there is a difference which depends on who the visitor is. As President of RPI, she was worthy of extra hospitality: we accorded her special honor and reverence and laid out the red carpet as we say. This is human nature. If the Asantehene comes to your house you will treat him differently from when your friend visits you. You will receive him with the reverence accorded royalty. You will probably wear kente and bow down when he enters.

So, it is the same with those who have received Jesus; those who have invited him and made him hospitable. They regard Jesus as their God, as King of kings, and as their Lord of lords. They bow to him and honor him and reverence him. They obey his Word, do what he commands them and they don't follow false teachings. They pay their tithes, give him extra offering, and give him their time.

*What happens when you receive Jesus and revere him? Our text tells us that he gives you the right to become a child of the God Most High. Let's explore how this happens.*

## **4 Those who receive him become born of God**

**Madonna adopted a Malawi orphan according him full legal right as a son.**

Madonna has chosen Africa as a cause to project on the world scene. Because of this in 2006 she decided to adopt a one year old baby boy, David, from an orphanage in Malawi. The adoption process made it known to the world that now David is her son; that is, David has been legally “born” of Madonna. So now, David has the rights of sonship of Madonna. Madonna’s mansion, Rolls Royce, servants, security, doctors, and \$500m net worth are all at the new son’s disposal! I was surprised at the Western press’ outcry against the Madonna adoption. I wish that more affluent westerners will share some of their wealth with the very poor in Africa. But that is not the point of my message today.

**When you receive Jesus he rebirths you as his child.**

In the same way, when you receive Jesus into your life something extraordinary happens. Jesus comes into your house and sees you and feels compassion for your situation. He sees the spiritual dirt and spiritual poverty that you are in. He decides to adopt you. The adoption process involves giving birth to you anew – a spiritual rebirth. As our main text teaches, the decision to adopt you is a divine and royal decision and not a human decision. It is the will of God the Father and not a human’s will.

The birth is a supernatural birth and not a natural birth. The birthing process arises out of circumstances no longer under your control. The birthing process is the time when you recognize deep in your soul how depraved and how hopeless you are. I remember when I reached that point I felt a pain in my soul and a yearning to give it all to God with uncontrollable tears. You find yourself in circumstances that box you in as if you are in a womb. Anywhere you turn you face a wall. Then the circumstances begin to squeeze you and as the squeezing becomes ever tighter you come out crying in the palace of God, saying “I give it all up, I am yours forever, I reject my sinful living, I surrender my soul to you.” You have been born in the palace of God; in the palace of the King of kings. The angels are overjoyed for “there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:7) God holds a big outdoor

party in your honor attended by the angelic host. There is singing and dancing and merrymaking for today is born a new prince, a new princess of the King of kings.

### **Rebirth by Jesus gives you spiritual royal rights as his son.**

Now that you have become a child of the King of kings, you are entitled to all the rights and privileges as a child of God. So God's security, provision, ministering angels, healing powers, prosperity, and all his promises are all at your disposal. You must claim all these rights and privileges as a prince/princess of the Most High God. You must begin to live as royalty of the divine, a holy person, a person belonging to the King of kings and Lord of lords, a citizen of the most powerful kingdom – heaven, an ambassador of the most prestigious kingdom – heaven, a prince or princess of the God Most High. So you should not let yourself be trampled by the pigs and dogs. Keep your head high, chest up and strut your holy self.

## **5 Conclusion**

Jesus is always knocking at the most importune time. Some don't open the door to him. Some open the door but don't let him in. Some invite him in but are not hospitable to him. But a few others invite him and give him full hospitality. Those who give Jesus full hospitality are the people who believe in the royalty and divinity of Jesus and so give him the utmost reverence and surrender their life completely to him. Jesus takes these people and rebirths them into his royal family and they become prince/princess of the King of kings. As a result they are entitled to everything in the Kingdom of God – peace, prosperity, and health.

This is the reason why you must receive Jesus fully and become a prince/princess of the King of kings and God of gods.

If you have already invited Jesus fully into your life, I encourage you to begin to claim your rights and privileges as a prince or princess of God. I pray that you will realize all that God has in store for you.

If you have not fully surrendered your life to him I pray that God will open your eyes for you to see clearly and surrender your life completely to him.

If you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your personal savior I want you to commit your life to him today by praying this short prayer:

Dear God. I recognize that I am a sinner and that Jesus died for my sins. From this day forward, I reject sinful living of the world and I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I promise to live a new life in Christ. Amen.

May the God of hope work wonderful things in your life today. Amen.