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Ezekiel 34:11-12, 1517  
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28  
Matthew 25:31-46

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING –  
A “UNDERCOVER KING”  
November 19-20, 2011**

How many have seen or heard of the reality TV show “Undercover Boss”?

Each 'Undercover Boss' episode follows a different executive as they leave the comfort of their office for an undercover mission into the inner workings of their companies. These executives alter their appearance and assume an “alias” and fictitious background.

Whether working alongside their employees as a new hire or posing as customers, they see "first hand" the effects their decisions have on others, get an up-close look at where problems lie within their company, and often discover the unsung heroes who make their companies succeed.

At the end of their week undercover, the executives return to their offices and call the employees they worked with or were served by in their customer disguise to corporate headquarters. The bosses reveal their true identity, reward hard-working employees through promotion and raise, and send weak employees off for retraining.

Might we dare to consider Jesus an “Undercover King”?

In the only detailed description the New Testament gives of a “Last Judgment,” the nations are assembled before this 'Undercover King' at Divine Corporate Headquarters. From His glorious office chair, the King rewards the righteous and sends the others to a fate far worse than retraining!

There is no surprise here about the kinds of deeds on which people are judged, but what is startling to those who come before the King is “to whom” the deeds were done - the King himself! “*What you did for one of the least, you did for me.*” This surprises both sheep and goats, as each gives the same response: “*Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty*”?...

Both were fooled by the King's "cover" as one of the world's vulnerable.

If there has been anyone in our time whom this 'Undercover King' couldn't fool, it was Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. She saw through His 'cover' and recognized her Lord. Mother Teresa, when speaking of the very poorest in Calcutta, said that each one of them is 'Jesus in disguise.' *"The hungry person, leper, orphan, the cripple, the dying, the unloved, every unborn and unwanted child... all are Jesus in disguise."*

Here indeed was a woman who took Matthew 25 quite literally as Mother Teresa saw her 'Undercover Boss and King' in those "least" she and her sisters ministered to daily. Do we?

And Jesus isn't merely pretending, like those executives in the "Undercover Boss" show. No, this 'Undercover King' fully identifies Himself with "the least among us," and is truly present in their struggles and suffering!

If we were to be summoned to "Divine Corporate Headquarters" by our Undercover Boss and CEO, Christ the King, how might that go?

Would we be rewarded with a spiritual promotion? Or sent for further training? My guess is we all need some retooling in our customer service skills, especially with the clientele our Undercover King has hired us to serve, "the least ones" - whom Jesus names His brothers and sisters.

So together, we're going to take a "disciple's performance review"; not with a fear that Jesus might fire us, but with trust in the incredible mercy He offers. For ours is a tender King, as we heard from Ezekiel, who *"seeks out the lost, brings back the strayed, heals the injured and sick..."*

I invite you to close your eyes. For each Examen, our music ministry will lead us in a sung response.

God, you fill us with blessings beyond number and feed us with the finest wheat - Christ, the Bread of Life. Have we shared our bread with the hungry; involved ourselves in local and global efforts to end hunger?

**Assembly: Hold us in your mercy - sung refrain**

God, you give us your Spirit to quench our thirst for life's meaning and purpose. Have we been open to the prompting of the Spirit to help those who thirst for a better life for themselves and their children? {Have we generously supported the Catholic Campaign for Human Development?}

**Assembly: Hold us in your mercy - sung refrain**

God, you welcome us into the household of Christ. How well do we show welcome to strangers, refugees, immigrants? Do we challenge harsh words of judgment spoken about them? Have we advocated for just immigration policies?

**Assembly: Hold us in your mercy - sung refrain**

God, you clothe us with the garment of salvation. Do we clothe the poor and homeless with dignity and respect? Have we addressed their need for affordable housing with our elected leaders?

**Assembly: Hold us in your mercy - sung refrain**

God, you bestow upon us healing and peace. Do we make time to visit the ill and elderly, bringing a caring presence into their lives?

**Assembly: Hold us in your mercy - sung refrain**

God, you free us through Christ from our imprisonment in sin. Do we "write off" those serving sentences in our prisons? Have we volunteered for prison-jail ministry or offered to coach and mentor those paroled?

**Assembly: Hold us in your mercy - sung refrain**

{Please open your eyes}

As we come and receive the very body and blood of Christ our King, "under the cover" of bread and wine, ponder these beautiful words from Blessed Teresa of Calcutta:

*"The Eucharist and the poor we must never separate! If we really believe that Jesus is in the appearance of bread, and the same Jesus is in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned, the lonely, and hopeless... then our lives will more and more be woven with this deep faith in Jesus, the bread of life - to be eaten with and for the poor."*