

A new dignity

- Revd Kit Gunasekera

In Matthew chapter 1, we have the genealogy of Jesus. And one of the things that we can overlook, is that Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, came from the line of kings. We can often think of him as poor Joseph, an outsider, having to take care of someone else's son! And yet, the way Matthew presents it, he would have been a king. He is not a nobody. He is not an outsider. He was always part of God's story and plan.

Adrian Plass has a gift of re-writing scripture in a humorous and absurd way, in order to emphasis its original point. He does so, because we can read scripture as it is, but believe the opposite of what it says.

We are not nobodies and we are not outsiders. The bible tells us, that we are children of God (1 John 3:1); that God loves us (John 3:16); that God chose us before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:4); that God will keep us (Jude 1:24); that we are heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17); that we are priests and ministers (1 Peter 2:9).

Those who follow Christ, belong to Him. In him, we belong spiritually to the line of king and queens. In the words of the baptism, we have a new dignity as a child of God. And so does our neighbour.

Song: No longer slaves - you can listen to it here

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8TkUMJtK5k>

You unravel me with a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance from my enemies
'Til all my fears are gone

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

From my mother's womb
You have chosen me
Love has called my name
I've been born again
Into your family
Your blood flows through my veins

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

I am surrounded
By the Arms of the Father
I am surrounded
By songs of deliverance

We've been liberated
From our bondage
We're the sons and the daughters
Let us sing our freedom

Oh oh oh oh oh
Oh oh oh oh oh
Oh oh oh oh oh
Oh oh oh oh oh

You split the sea
So I could walk right through it
My fears were drowned in Perfect Love
You rescued me
And I will stand and sing
I am a child of God

You split the sea
So I could walk right through it

My fears were drowned in Perfect Love

You rescued me

So I could stand and say

I am a child of God

I am a child of God

Oh, I am a child of God