

My first trip to the Magic Kingdom (Disney World in Orlando, FL) was in 1985. I had just finished 8<sup>th</sup> grade and my sister 6<sup>th</sup> grade. I do not have vivid memories of that trip, but I do remember standing in a long line with my dad waiting to get on Space Mountain at Epcot Center. I do not remember the ride or if we even got on, but what blows my mind, though, is imagining my dad even putting up with a day at the Magic Kingdom.

As a parent, we made our first trip to the Magic Kingdom in 2013, when Mayah was a baby (and before Malachi was born). It was not our timing to make such a trip then, especially considering it was the week between Christmas and New Year's, but my sister in-law's marching band was performing, so my mother in-law flew us all down. And in case you do not know, that week is the busiest week of the year at the Magic Kingdom. It was solid people, with us pushing a stroller (mostly me). They even closed the gates after we arrived because they reached capacity. And let me tell you, there was nothing magical about that kingdom that day. I was tired and cranky and could not even enjoy it with my child, and she would never remember the experience being so young. We did return to the Magic Kingdom a few years later, in October this time, and both kids were old enough to enjoy it, and even still remember it. And me? Well, I even enjoyed it a little this time around. But there is another Kingdom that I want my children to know about even more.

Sunday was Christ the King Sunday. It is the day we remember and recognize another king, THE King - Jesus - who has come and is coming to establish his kingdom. It is not a magical kingdom but rather an eternal one. It is not a money trap where you have to drain your savings account to enter, but rather you get free access through the blood of Jesus. It is not make believe but very, very real. God's Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom. God's Kingdom is not and never will be overcrowded. God's Kingdom has a place for you and that place is reserved through faith in Jesus.

In a world where kingdoms, magical or otherwise, reign, I find great comfort that I belong to a Kingdom that will never perish and one that is incorruptible. Kings, leaders, politicians, etc., come and go, but Jesus sits on the throne now and forever. Jesus has conquered that last enemy, death. Jesus reigns victorious forever.

So, whether I return with my family to the Magic Kingdom or not, I rest secure in the Kingdom I am already in. May you too, rest secure in His Kingdom. To God be all glory through Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.