

Some were realistic, but others sincerely thought the Chiefs were going to beat Dallas on Thursday. Some fans believe so deeply in a team that a loss becomes unthinkable. Those are the fans who get ridiculed the most. They believe in something that fails.

It hurts when people ridicule what we believe. They may laugh at our choice of car, the clothes we wear, or the teams we support. Sometimes they make fun of our morals--the place of sexual relationships within marriage, or the value of human life from womb to tomb. People will criticize our choice of neighborhood, our preference for interracial communities, the church we belong to, the decisions of our leaders, the hypocrisy of worshippers. They may make sport of your spouse, or the behavior of your children. They may call you a fake and a failure. It hurts when people ridicule what we believe, and say that it's old-fashioned, failed like a team that falls 10-2. Yet the more they say we're wrong, the more we believe.

On the day of his crucifixion, Jesus heard the mockery of those who claimed his mission had failed. He who came to save could not save himself from an embarrassing death. He hung tortured, helpless, naked, beneath a sign which called him a fake and a failure: INRI--Iesus Nazarenus rex Iudaeorum, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." INRI was Pilate's way of ridiculing both Jesus and the Jews; he reckoned the Jews so pitiful he imagined their king a bleeding, tormented failure.

Well, that's the king we still honor--the king of the Jews, the king of the universe. Yes, the throne from which he reigns is a cross of suffering. But through it he has vindicated the faith of his believers, and silenced the laughter of his foes.

The Feast of Christ the King emboldens our faith that the beliefs we hold so dear, the beliefs which others criticize, are true. Christians keep the cross in view wherever we turn to strengthen the weakness in our faith and help us remain firm in our belief. When we do not find support from our friends and associates, we find it always in the cross of Christ the King.