*Who’s the boss? Who’s really in charge and calling the shots here?* These are the questions that crossed my mind as I remembered being interviewed by a series of interviewers for my very first job right out of college. I still remember that day like it was yesterday. On the morning of the interview, I did everything that I was supposed to do. I showed up to the midtown office about 10-15 minutes early, dressed professionally and showing confidence on the outside, even though deep inside I was extremely nervous. I’ve never been to a corporate interview before. I had no idea what to expect out of this.

 Apparently, there was a process of who actually get to interview potential employee in this company. I had no idea who ultimately gets to make the final decision. One by one, I was led to meet with individuals from various departments within the corporate leadership. Each interviewer pretty much asked about the same thing, so I had to explain and describe myself over and over again. I suppose the more I get at it, the better I became. Finally, after 6 or 7 interviews, I was led to the 5th floor which was where all the principals of the firm work - the Partners’ Row as they called it.

 As I walked into this principal’s office, I was met by this old man with a big smile on his face and he greeted me warmly with a firm handshake. He introduced himself to me as Tony and he’s the head principal and the president of the firm. He signed all the checks. At that time, I was too nervous to think. I couldn’t believe I was actually being interviewed by the corporate principal and the president of a multi-million-dollar company. I remember asking myself, “*why is he wasting time on someone like me who is seeking an entry-level position? Doesn’t he have more important things to do?”*

 Even though Tony had all the power of the company with the voice of his command and a stroke of his pen, he turned out to be a very down-to-earth and a humble individual. Whatever he decides, becomes…everyone respected Tony’s decisions as what’s best for the company and for all of its 500 employees. He was the “Big Cheese!” He was the Boss!

 Incidentally for the rest of the conversation, we didn’t really talk about my technical skills or my qualification, but instead he focused on who I am as a person and as a potential employee. He was more interested in my personal hobbies or the old neighborhood where he grew up in - Sheepshead Bay. What a coincidence. He also went to Shell Bank Junior High and Sheepshead Bay High School and he was a big Brooklyn Dodgers before they left town.

 Throughout the entire interview, Tony treated me like one of his own employees already, even though I was just a graduating senior looking for my first job right out of college. Tony demonstrated his humility and humble personality, as he came down to the level of his people. He gave me the first positive impression of the company that I ended up working for 8 years. He treated everyone the same, from fellow partners to the mailroom clerk. He valued people as the biggest asset of the firm and he honored them for the hard work that they put in as they are willing to go the extra mile for the company. Tony didn’t have to do any of this, but he did. But he was the boss!!!

 On this last Sunday of the liturgical calendar, it is known as Christ the King Sunday, in which we remember and honor Christ as the King of all Kings and Lord of all Lords. Even though Christ is the King, he didn’t have to come down to earth to be amongst us here on earth, but he did. Because of his obedience to his Father, he demonstrated his humility and grace by coming down to the level of human. He spoke in our language and understood our needs. He lived among us and guided us through all the good time and the bad. And he never let go of us or let us down either.

 As we read from our text earlier, the Apostle Paul was writing a prayer of thanksgiving to the early church in Ephesus, reaffirming who Christ was and our rightful relationship with him...much like a big boss with his everyday employee.

 It has become more so difficult and harder for those who have declared themselves as Christians, to follow Christ for a lifetime and to acknowledge him as our “Boss”. The Christian journey, is NOT a simple walk in the park. We are met with various forms of temptations throughout the course of our lives every day.

 **Our Christian journey is nothing but a testimony of God’s work in us.** The passage that we read in Ephesians was a prayer of thanksgiving, not for any particular individual but for a community of faith (the church). **Remember and honor Christ for who he is and what Christ has done. Whose are we while under the Lordship of Christ?**

 The early church shared many similar struggles that we face today when it comes to our hope in Christ. As Paul wrote in verse 12 that we are to ***set our hope on Christ, so that we may live for the praise of his glory.[[1]](#footnote-1)*** It is NOT enough that we claim we are Christians. We do NOT necessarily get an automatic pass into the eternal heaven. That’s NOT how it works. Through our faith, we must live up to our beliefs. We must honor God through our obedience in our journey, even in the midst of life struggles and challenges. While Christ’s work, here on earth might be completed, God’s saving work is NOT finished. There is still work to be done and WE have been called to carry out that work, with the help of the Holy Spirit, which empowers us. God is our Big Boss in the Upper corner office, and we are simply God’s humble workers down here on earth below.

 In this Ephesian passage (in verse 22), the church, (ekklesia) was described as nothing but an assembly of people. Not just any ordinary people, but people of God. The term “church” (ekklesia) was mentioned for the very first time in the New Testament. Note that when Paul referred this to the “Church”, he was NOT talking about any particular local congregation or certain institution or denomination, as we imagine today. He was simply referring the church as **those who come to believe in and follow Christ, as their lord and master.** Simply put, **the church is the humble body at the service to the will of the head, which is the Christ.**

 As Christ’s body, the church is exalted along with Christ who is the head. The term “head” as often used in the Bible signify power, dominion, and authority. As one theologian put it, **it is indeed a privilege to participate in God’s mission of the world.**[[2]](#footnote-2) **Christ’s reconciling work in this world may be finished but there is still much work left for us to take up through Christ’s teachings and our obedience.** We must strive to go the extra mile, while proclaiming God’s continuing work here on earth as dedicated servants of God.

 As the season of Advent is upon us, may we be reminded once again who our ultimate authority is.  **Who is still in charge and who is still the big boss in our lives?** With the many dazzling display of distractions and temptations of what the world has to offer to us that satisfy our cravings and temporary earthly pleasures. We are challenged to take a firm stand on our allegiance and our fidelity in Christ.

 *Though he was in the form of God, [he] did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7 but [he] emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.[[3]](#footnote-3)*

 Christ remains exalted in the midst of all human trials, sufferings and griefs. Although life itself may remain a mystery at times, our hope remains solidly anchored in our Lord Jesus Christ, whose Kingdom to shall remain unwavering and undeterred. **Keep Calm, Because God is still in control!** **We are still God’s people under his wings, the sheep of his pastures.[[4]](#footnote-4)**

 In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, Amen.

1. *Ephesian 1:12* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Cole, John E *Feasting on the Word, Year A, Volume 4,* P.330 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Philippians 2:6-11* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *Psalm 100:3* [↑](#footnote-ref-4)