

MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH, 3500 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27612

NEWS & EVENTS – May 2026

Phone...(919) 787-1910
E-mail: office@mobic.org
Web Page: www.mobic.org

SAM GORE, Senior Pastor
NANCY MCBRAYER, Office Manager
MIKE KING, Maintenance Supervisor

Fetterless...is an interesting word that my mind is thinking about this morning. Sometimes I dwell, or meditate, on a word. And thinking about that word becomes a mental exercise that leads to a spiritual journey. It's not unusual for words to be tumbling around in that space that I call my mind. Most of the time the space is quite spacious! But then there are times when the space cannot contain all the meaning that the words convey. Believe it or not, I've learned what it means to be at a loss for words. Fetter is a word that captured me today. We don't hear that old word much today. It simply means a process of being bound, limited, restricted, or restrained. Shackles and chains paint the mental picture. In my living memory I can recall seeing prisoners working on road crews wearing shackles and chains. I heard them called chain gangs.

This quest for meaning was triggered this week as I heard about a royal visit. The King of England, or more officially, the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland visited the President of the United States. The political climate in today's world can be an interesting area to spend time thinking about. Some probably spend way too much time there. I was reminded more than once about what people think about kings. Now I know the President is not supposed to be a king. America was declared independent from a king's dominion almost 250 years ago. And some folks today see the President as a king to be resisted. It seems that *No Kings* rallies, or protests, are prevalent on the world stage as well as at home. But there was quite a large amount of homage given when King Charles addressed Congress this week. Between many standing ovations, I don't know how the King was able to get his message out! It appears that some of the repugnance over kings is selective and was transformed into affinity when it was politically convenient. So here's the question...*Kings or No Kings*...should human beings rally or protest? Should we rejoice or rebel? Do we really have a choice?

Kings and fetters go together. At least in the Scripture we read, and the songs that we sing. In a world of chaos, disorder, wars, rumors of wars, fear and confusion, it seems foolish to depend upon human ideas to solve these problems. Are *Kings* really the answer? Is *No Kings* a better path for the future? Consider this Scripture as informative wisdom that answers the provocative question *why?* *Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us tear their **fetters** apart And cast away their cords from us!" (Ps 2:1-3)*

Could it be that the concept of No Kings has an ancient history? Rebellion against the boundaries placed upon Creation that the High King of Heaven set in place is known as sin. The kings of the earth cast away their fetters. They still want to be fetterless...without restraint to pursue their rebellion. That is why there is so much tumult in the spiritual atmosphere. The Psalmist goes on to say that the King of Everything rules over the kings of the earth and actually laughs and scoffs at their plan. You see, all humanity is ordered to serve the King of kings. There is a mandate. We were made to serve and worship the Most High God. That order will be restored. So the *No Kings* attitude is not a modern adaptation. Rebellion against God and His Anointed (Messiah) is ancient. Sin is judged. Human desire, spiritual desire, to be fetterless from God's authority is a fantasy for the sinner. It is a nightmare for a human being, fettered to the slavery of sin, to be untethered to the mercy of Almighty God. Fetterless is akin to faithlessness. Hopelessness is the condition of that life.

Here is the hope...consider the third verse of an old song...*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.*

O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be!

*Let that **grace** now, **like a fetter**, bind my wandering heart to Thee.*

*Prone to **wander**, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;*

Here's my heart; O take and seal it; Seal it for Thy courts above.

If this is you...if you're still wandering...get fettered to the Father...get bound to the heart of Jesus.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam

(If you are unable to attend Mt. Olivet's 11 AM Sunday worship service in person, can go to website www.mobic.org and click on "Worship Services" for live streaming or prior messages.)