

JESUS 2020

LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF ~~HAPPINESS~~
HOLINESS

MAKING THE KINGDOM FIRST AGAIN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020

Jesus assembled a politically diverse group of followers to serve as His first disciples. Not only did He call Matthew -- a Roman tax collector and sympathizer -- but He also called Simon the Zealot -- a hard core Jewish nationalist and revolutionary. These two men had about as much in common as Nancy Pelosi and Donald Trump! How was it possible that two people with starkly different ideas both followed Jesus and even gave their lives for His cause? Join us for part one of **Jesus 2020** where we will learn the secret to remaining united despite our political differences.

Passage: Matthew 6:33; John 17; John 13:34-35

Principle: Put Jesus and His _____ before your political _____ and personal _____.

Practice:

- Pray for what Jesus prayed for: Unity among His followers.
- Look for opportunities to love people with whom you disagree politically.

Daily Readings:

DAY 1: LUKE 6
DAY 2: MATTHEW 20
DAY 3: MATTHEW 21
DAY 4: MATTHEW 22
DAY 5: MATTHEW 23
DAY 6: JOHN 13
DAY 7: JOHN 17

Suggested Resources:

Books: *THE MYTH OF A CHRISTIAN NATION,*
BY GREG BOYD

**Other sermons
at ssbc.org:**

LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING
(2016)
ONE NATION UNDER GOD
(2012)

**Resources on
RightNow Media:**

CULTURE SHOCK, BY CHIP INGRAM
ONE, BY DENNIS ROUSE

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

This week begins a new series on faith and politics. The purpose of this series is not to try to persuade people to vote for one particular person or political party. Nor is the purpose to be critical of all parties in an attempt to disengage voters. The purpose is to try to get Jesus' followers to place their allegiance to Him and His kingdom above their personal political preference and to live as if His is the only Kingdom that will endure.

HANGOUT [WARMING UP TO THE TOPIC]:

1. Would you describe yourself as politically active or do you avoid politics at all costs?

2. What experiences, background, educations, etc. led you to have the political views you have today?

HEAR [LISTENING TO GOD THROUGH SCRIPTURE]:

3. Read Mark 12:13-17.

- What motivated the Pharisees to ask this question?
- To what extent do you believe political questions/discussions are motivated by the same thing today?
- How do you understand Jesus' answer? Why was this such a good answer?
- What does Jesus answer tell you about how we should understand issues of faith and politics?

4. Read Romans 13:1-7.

- What is most unsettling about this passage?
- Obviously, Paul knew that Jesus Himself had been falsely condemned and crucified by a corrupt government. Does reading this passage through that lens change your understanding? If so, how and why?
- Do you believe Paul intended Christians to apply this passage only to governments with whom they agreed? Why or why not?
- What does this mean for the Church today?
- What, if any, responsibilities do Jesus' followers have to address injustice and corruption in government? How are Christians to respond to oppressive and corrupt leaders?

HUDDLE [MAKING IT PERSONAL AND PRAYING TOGETHER - IN HUDDLES]:

5. How respectful are you of our current president, governor, and mayor? Are you only respectful of those individuals when the people for whom you voted won? How do you measure up to Paul's directions to believers in Romans 13? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.