

KINGDOM COME

1 Samuel 8:1-9

- **In our *Kingdom Come* series we are discovering how Christians can overcome political divisiveness and unite around the Gospel.**
- Jesus - *"Pray like this…May Your Kingdom come soon. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."* (Matthew 6:10)
- *"For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."* (Romans 14:17)
- "I think almost all the crimes which Christians have perpetrated against each other arise from this, that religion is confused with politics. For, above all other spheres of human life, the Devil claims politics for his own, as almost the citadel of his power." -*CS Lewis*
- **At the heart of many Christians' preoccupation with politics is an idolatry of cultural power and individual benefit.**
- **Signs politics has become an idol in our lives:**
    - **We justify mean, ungodly statements with political cause.**
    - **We treat people as either friend or foe according to political bias.**
    - **We regularly watch or listen to political shows that make us feel angry or fearful.**
    - **We can more readily quote political commentators or candidates than we can quote Scripture.**
    - **We are more concerned with our nation's future than with our friends' and families' eternities.**
- *"Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts."* (1 John 5:21)
- **In this season of political division, all Christians should prioritize staying true to the Lord.**
- ***How can we stay true to the Lord this election season?***

We Can Stay True To The Lord When We:

ACKNOWLEDGE OUR OWN <u>SHORTCOMINGS</u>

- *"As Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons to be judges over Israel…But they were not like their father, for they were greedy for money. They accepted bribes and perverted justice."* (1 Samuel 8:1,3)
- *"In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes."* (Judges 21:25)
- **Failures of Christian leadership and Christian culture are partly to blame for our idolatry of politics.**
- *"We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments."* (2 Corinthians 10:4)
- **Solving the problems of our world requires Christians who are more spiritually active than they are politically active.**
- ***What could Jesus do if Christians were more spiritually active than they are politically active?***

We Can Stay True To The Lord When We:

RECOGNIZE WHAT THE <u>LORD</u> IS DOING

- *"Finally, all the elders of Israel met at Ramah to discuss the matter with Samuel. 'Look,' they told him, 'you are now old, and your sons are not like you. Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have.'"* (1 Samuel 8:4-5)
- **Sometimes we are so near-sighted that we fail to understand the bigger, better plan that the Lord is bringing about.**
- **Near-sightedness causes us to make decisions that appear to help in the short-term but cause more problems in the long-term.**
- Jesus - *"But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?"* (Luke 14:28)
- **Near-sightedness drives us to envy and away from contentment.**
- *"For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind."* (James 3:16)
- **Near-sightedness drives us to quick wrong answers instead of patient right answers.**
- *"Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good."* (Romans 12:21)
- **Near-sightedness causes us to value being right over being righteous.**
- Jesus - *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."* (Matthew 5:6 NIV)
- ***How have I been near-sighted in my politics?***

We Can Stay True To The Lord When We:

REMEMBER THAT CHRIST IS <u>KING</u>

- The Lord - *" They are rejecting Me, not you. They don't want Me to be their king any longer."* (1 Samuel 8:7)
- **Christians are citizens of heaven, with Christ as our King.**
- **The Kingdom Of God is *an Invisible Kingdom.***
- Jesus - *"The Kingdom of God can't be detected by visible signs. You won't be able to say, 'Here it is!' or 'It's over there!' For the Kingdom of God is already among you."* (Luke 17:21)
- **The Kingdom Of God is *a Powerful Kingdom.***
- *"The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever."* (Daniel 2:44)
- **The Kingdom Of God is *a Better Kingdom.***
- Jesus - *"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need."* (Matthew 6:33)
- **The Kingdom Of God has *a Better King.***
- *"For He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, Who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins."* (Colossians 1:13)
- **Remembering that our citizenship is in an eternal Kingdom should leave us less prone to anxieties produced by earthly kingdoms.**
- *"So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."* (2 Corinthians 4:18)
- ***Have I really made Jesus "King" over my politics?***

- "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." - *George Santayana*
- The Lord - *"They have rejected me as their king."* (1 Samuel 8:7)
- **No political party, platform, or opinion should be so big that it dethrones Jesus as our King.**
- **Each week in our *Kingdom Come* series, we are adopting a weekly practice, and this week's practice is to PAUSE.**
    - **When you feel your blood begin to boil, PAUSE.**
    - **When you want to blast on social media, PAUSE.**
    - **When you can't wait to express a contentious opinion, PAUSE.**
    - **When you're about to make an important decision, PAUSE.**
- James - *"You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry."* (James 1:19)

- *“Lord, help me to slow down this week and listen to Your Holy Spirit before I speak. Help me to set aside my own political opinions in order to focus on Your Word. Help me to set aside anger, anxiety, fear, and judgment as I seek Your will for my life and for our nation.”*