



Prayer and Worship

GROUP OPENER

Politics and religion are often taboo topics at Thanksgiving because they show what we hold as deeply valuable. We can also co-opt parts of Jesus's or a politician's platform to fit around what we value. Today no matter where you stand, let yourself be challenged in your views by Jesus. Let's look at how the first followers of Jesus gave over their vision of life fully to King Jesus.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Read Acts 4:1-31 Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What are some significant observations you have about this text? What stood out? What didn't you like? What was confusing?
- What does this passage teach us about God? How does it change how I see God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity/ourselves? How would it change how I treat others?
- What does this passage teach us about obedience? How should it affect the way I live?

November 10
WEEKEND

ACTION STEPS

I will statement...

- Based on what God is teaching in this passage, what should I do? Reflect for a minute or two and develop an action statement. Put it in the form, "I Will _____". Make it concrete, simple, and achievable.
- Share your "I Will" statement with the group.

As a Group

Did you notice that in our reading that the followers of Jesus asked for in their prayer was boldness in telling others about Jesus. (V 29)

What are some positive ways you have seen people be bold for Jesus? Do you think that same level of boldness is something you could do?

In a previous sermon we discussed what Christians bring to the political conversation.

What do Christians uniquely bring to politics?

1. A measured allegiance to human government
2. A legal responsibility to love neighbor
3. An unwavering belief in human dignity
4. A realistic assessment of human depravity
5. An uncompromising moral compass
6. A fearless hope in King Jesus

Discuss what stands out to you about these and why they are each important for someone who follows Jesus.

GROUP PRAYER

There will be several prompts below between each prayer prompt take one minute of silence.

Read:

Our Great God, in this room today there is joy and there is also fear.
In our hoping and fearing, we acknowledge that You are sovereign – creating everything, ordaining government, guiding history, redeeming humanity, promising accountability, rendering judging, and preparing resurrection glory.

Read:

God, we repent of any misdirected loyalties this election season.

Government cannot make us or break us, save us or ruin us. We will passionately participate with Kingdom aspirations now, but we will hold back our highest hopes for the age to come. We reserve the throne of our hearts for King Jesus. There will be no end to the increase of His government.

Read:

God, we renew our commitment to be ambassadors for Christ the next four years. America is not our home, but we love this land and its people. We will live out Your values, even when they conflict with our nation's. We will obey Your Great Commands, even will they conflict with our desires. We will pursue Your Great Commission, even if it is met with indifference, rejection or persecution.

Read:

God, we ask for eternal urgency and missional power today.

Give us, Your servants, great boldness in preaching Your Word. Stretch out Your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of Your Holy Servant Jesus. Amen.