



**Disclaimer, please make every effort to keep the conversation flowing and within the framework of the questions/sermon. This space isn't the place to go off on political tangents. If you sense this happening in your group, please redirect and encourage people to email pastors@benttree.org to have that conversation with a pastor.*

Jesus and Politics

*Week 1: The Way of the Cross | Teacher: Libin Abraham
Sermon Questions for 11.5.2023*

Opener

On a scale of 1-10, how politically aware/active/engaged are you?

Read

Colossians 3:11; Mark 1:15; Mark 15:1-15; Matthew 27:16-17

Main Points

1. God doesn't pick a side, politically. He stands all by himself in a self-existent category called "Holy" and he invites us to pick his side.
2. We are not a church just for republicans, democrats, or any other political party - because we are a church where we practice getting along with people we will spend eternity with and heaven is much larger than any political party.
3. This series isn't to say that politics doesn't matter, but that the Great Commission matter more than our politics.
4. Though we may have different politics, we can be united in our posture toward God, in our posture toward each other, in our posture toward the world.
5. The Way of Barabbas - the way of the world: seeks to gain earthly power and maintain earthly power by way of threat and violence and all about winning, fueled by fear, competition, and vitriol.
6. The Way of Jesus - the way of the cross: blesses persecutors, turning the other cheek, going the extra mile, loving enemies, giving extravagantly where the last is first, weak is strong, humble are exalted. It's an "upside-down kingdom."
7. The world often elevates Barabbas and will want you to be Barabbas, but Jesus invites us to the way of the cross.

Engage with God in a Group

- What thoughts/emotions do you experience when you think about entering into the next political cycle?
- What do you think has had the biggest impact on your political views: cable news/media or the Holy Spirit guiding and informing your faith?
- Jesus lived in a massively divided political world, how did he engage in the culture and politics of his day?
- How can you seek common ground with those you may disagree with, politically?
- When have you chosen unity over division with someone close to you?

Bottom Line

We can be united in our posture though we may be divided in our politics.