



Lake Forest Church Sermon Discussions

Series: Citizen

Part 2

INTRODUCE IT

As a group, talking about "Politics and Faith" can get ugly if we let it and your community group is not the place for political stances to be taken. So, as your group begins this discussion, pray as a group that God would allow you to hear each other's thoughts and talk as people that realize each loves the Lord.

This series is focused on being a citizen and realizing that our citizenship first and foremost lies within the Kingdom of God and not of this earth. But we are citizens on earth as well and we need to play those roles in a manner that is affected by our citizenship in heaven. So, we will ask the question, "What does it mean to trust God over man and allow that trust to affect our citizenship here on earth?"

When I was growing up, my family's dynamics were all that I knew. It wasn't until I was older that I recognized how dysfunctional my family really was. I just thought every family was that way. In the same way, I have friends that thought their families were really messed up until they heard about mine. They discovered they had it made as they heard other stories of other families. It's very easy to miss what the condition of the rest of the world is when you are focused on your own world.

It's also very easy to get so focused on the political climate of our own country and lose sight of the political climate of the world. In what ways are you grateful for our countries politics in comparison to what you have watched and know to be happening in other countries?

What are political climates of other countries that are bothersome to you? How alert are you to these other climates? Share why or why you are not alert to these.

STUDY IT

Last time we looked at 1 Samuel 8 and the vote from the people of Israel to take on a king that was a man. Once God gave them a King, it took a little over 500 years until the entire nation of Israel was in exile and no longer a geographical nation.

Read 1 Samuel 8:5; 19-20 again to remember why they wanted a king.

In what ways do you imagine they didn't like being who they were and instead wanted to be like everyone else?

Let's see what happened a little over 500 years later.

Read Daniel 1:1-21

Daniel is now in another country and under their political rule. What do you learn about this nation from this chapter?

In 1 Samuel 8, God warned the Israelites of Kings and their behaviors. How is the King of Babylon behaving the way that God said kings behave?

Daniel now lives in another country that blatantly does not worship or have any interest in the God he serves. How could he have reacted to this and how did he react?

What was the result of the way he handled this and what could have been the result?

Look forward a little more. Read Daniel 6:1-28

Even though Daniel was respected and admired that did not keep him from attacks. What was the core reason in which accusations were trying to be made of Daniel?

What do we learn about how Daniel chose to live in a nation that did not honor his god as God from these verses?

Because of how he lived his life, the only attack they could make was on his God. How did Daniel once again handle those attacks?

What was the ultimate result of Daniels actions toward this government?

USE IT

For many that don't believe this country is honoring and worshipping God, how have we seen opposite reactions to our government and the response of our nation to God?

In what ways would you ask the Lord to change your behavior and attitude toward our country and engage with the government the way that Daniel did?

In what ways did Daniels behaviors and beliefs End your time together by praying for our nation and asking God to reveal ways in your own heart that you are not allowing him to be King.