

Citizens of Heaven

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

OCT 27, 2024

The Jesus Revolution

We've been looking in the book of Mark at how Jesus responds to the politics of His day. What is the relationship between the Church and the state, Jesus and politics, Christianity and the government? Nations have come and gone, so too different forms of government. But the fundamental question of how to engage the world as a Christian is the same. There is perhaps no more important passage on this subject than the one we are looking at today.

Read Mark 15.1-15

- How do you understand the relationship between the Church and politics?
- What is the negative implication of calling Jesus the "king of the Jews?" Why might the religious leaders have used this phrase when bringing Him to Pilate (v. 12)? (see how they used a different phrase in Jesus' previous trial, 14.61)
- Why did Jesus choose to be silent against the false accusations about Him (v. 5)? (see Isaiah 53.7)
- How is Jesus' lack of a response a model to us today? (see 1 Peter 2.21-23)
- What possible reason, beyond envy, might underlie the people's choice for Barabbas over Jesus (v. 7)? And how might our desire for immediate political change come into conflict with our choice of Jesus as Lord today?
- How was the crowd's desire for Jesus to be killed a part of God's greater plan (vs. 12-14)? (see Mark 8.31). And how should this act of love on God's part influence our words and actions, including our politics?
- How might Jesus response to the politics of His day be a model for us today?

Praying together

God and Father, help us speak and act more like Jesus as we engage the politics of our day.