

Politics and the Cross

Week 1

The Politics of Jesus

1. Gathering/Discussion

2. Prayer

3. Series Outline

- Week 1: The Politics of Jesus
- Week 2: The Two Kingdoms
- Week 3: The Myth of a Christian Nation
- Week 4: Moral Guardians or Transforming Citizens

4. Definitions

- Politics: the activities associated with the governance of a country or other area, especially the debate or conflict among individuals or parties having or hoping to achieve power.
- Cross: Power made perfect in weakness; sacrificial love

5. Introduction

- What role should Christians play in politics – if any?

6. Political Context of Jesus' Day

- Born into a political hotbed
- Roman ruled
- Jewish longing for a political Messiah
- Jewish Political Groups
 - Essenes
 - Sadducees
 - Zealots

7. The Politics of Jesus

“Jesus concerns Himself hardly at all with the solution of worldly problems. When He is asked to do so His answer is remarkably evasive... Indeed, He scarcely ever replies to men’s questions directly, but answers rather from a quite different plane. His word is not an answer to human questions and problems; it is the answer of God to the question of God to man.” (Bonhoeffer, *Ethics*, 350)

Paying Taxes To Caesar – Mark 12:13-17

Jesus didn't come to answer kingdom of this world questions or solve their problems. Instead, he turned kingdom of this world questions into Kingdom of God answers. Jesus didn't bring a new and improved kingdom, but an all-together different one. In doing so, he refused:

- Not political simplicity
- Not political complacency
- Not political primacy

8. Questions

9. Closing Prayer