

**The Politics Of Jesus: Episode One**  
**John 19:1-12**  
**7/22/2018**

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup>The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe <sup>3</sup>and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face.<sup>4</sup>Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him."<sup>5</sup>When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"<sup>6</sup>As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."<sup>7</sup>The Jewish leaders insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."<sup>8</sup>When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, <sup>9</sup>and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>"Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" <sup>11</sup>**Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."** <sup>12</sup>From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."

1. Most believers feel that Jesus' political views match their own.
2. Many believers underestimate the power of prayer in regard to political change.

**Core understandings when grappling with the political stance of scripture:**

- **All authority on earth is ordained from heaven.**
  - **Proverb 21:1** A king's heart is like streams of water in the LORD's hand:He directs it wherever He chooses. HCSV
- **God is often willing to give mankind the leaders they want.**
  - **1 Samuel 8:6-8** But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. <sup>7</sup>And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king."
    - **Political change is always accomplished first in human hearts.**
      - **2 Chronicles 7:14** if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**Both Jesus and Paul were notably apolitical in regard to worldly governance.**

**The politics of Jesus are other worldly.** Jesus answered, **Matt 18:36** "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. **But my kingdom is not from the world.**"

- **The lion's share of Christ teachings on politics deal with a kingdom not of this world.**

- One of Jesus primary messages is “The Kingdom of heaven is like”:
  - Mustard seed Matt 13:31
  - A treasure hidden in a field Matt 13:44-46
  - A dragnet cast into the ocean Matt 13:47-52
  - Belongs to children Matt 19:14
- **The politics of Jesus are meant to satisfy God rather than man.**
  - Matt 14 For when Herod had John arrested, he bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. For John had been saying to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." Although Herod wanted to put him to death, **he feared the crowd**, because they regarded John as a prophet.

**God is looking for people who want to partner in releasing the values and the power of the kingdom of heaven into their domain.**

- **Matthew 16:19** I give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.
- **Matthew 18:18** "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Unlike many Christ followers today, Jesus understood that it is only through the releasing of kingdom values on a street corner level that nations will be changed.

**Next week:** Do earthly politics have any place in Christ following and if so, how are we supposed to enter into that arena?

**Questions for the journey:** Use these questions for going deeper in personal reflection or in one of our community groups.

1. Why would God give authority to evil leaders? Jesus says that the authority Pilate had to kill him was granted from heaven.
2. God seems to give humankind the politics that their hearts desire. See the above scripture in regard to Israel asking for a king. Why would God do this?
3. How political is your faith.
4. Are you as intune with the Kingdom of God’s politics as you are with those going on around you in the worldly arena?
5. Where and how can you start releasing the kingdom of heavens politics in your personal life and surroundings?