



## THE GLORIFICATION OF POLITICS

In this series we've been asking the question "why are so divided?" There's no doubt politics is one of the answers. But this study is not about resolving (or even discussing) our modern political divides and partisan debates. It's about the larger principle of how citizens of another kingdom can keep the right perspective and resist the urge to glorify or deify our politics. The discussion should center here. Save all the controversial stuff for later and try to keep the focus on Jesus, his words, and his actions leading up to the cross.

### TALK ABOUT IT

How many of you grew up in a church tradition that recognized Holy Week? In other words, when you were younger did you observe Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, etc.? Talk about that and it's meaning to you today.

#### **Read John 12:12-16**

Have you ever considered the political overtones of the triumphal entry? Why or why not?

Why do you think the idea of a political Messiah or conquering King was so appealing to them?

In what ways do we still hope for the same thing from Jesus? And in what ways does he challenge our expectations here?

#### **Read John 18:33-36**

When Jesus says "my kingdom is not of this world" what do you think he means by that? How would you explain it to someone confused by it (like Pilate)?

How is Jesus' understanding of power different from what people typically expect of leaders? And how does his exercise of power differ from earthly rulers?

What does it mean for us to say that our primary identity is rooted in the kingdom of God?

## **APPLY IT**

Glorification is defined as “making something seem more important, admirable, or desirable than it really is.” That is certainly a temptation when it comes to politics. Why is that? What are some of the factors that increase our temptation here?

How can we resist the temptation and try to keep a proper perspective on our politics?

One way to ask this is, what advice would you give to your kids if you felt that they were giving politics an outsized role in their life and allowing it to divide them from others?

How can focusing on our common faith in Jesus help bring us together, even when we see things differently?

## **PRAY TOGETHER**

Living counter-culturally is not easy. Pray that God would grant us more of the Holy Spirit to guide us into being people who represent his kingdom well. Pray for forgiveness where we have failed to do so, and pray for unity both within the church and the world.