



Scripture: John 18:28-40, Mark 12:13-17, James 1:19, 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Hey everyone! I am so glad you're here tonight. We're going to be diving into a topic that can feel complicated, tense, and even overwhelming, politics. Now, before you check out or get incredibly anxious, I promise this isn't a debate about which political party is best or worst. Instead, I want us to think about how followers of Jesus should approach politics. How should we engage in political conversations? How should we respond to the tension and division we see around us? And, most importantly, what does the Bible say about all of it?

I know politics can divide families, friendships, and even churches. Right now, we live in a time where political conversations are more heated than ever. People are quick to label others, assume the worst, and argue their perspective.

I genuinely want this to be a safe place where we can process and talk. So, I am asking each of you to have a level of respect for one another recognizing that we may not all agree and that's okay. The hope for today is not to convince you to hold a specific stance or align with a political party. My desire is for you to have a better understanding of how we as Christians should engage with politics and where we find our ultimate hope.

So, let's take some time to pray and ask God to open our hearts and minds to His truth as we dive into this discussion.

[\[Pray here\]](#)

Have you ever been in a political conversation that turned awkward fast? Maybe it was at a family gathering, in a group chat, or even just a casual conversation at school. One minute, everything is fine, and the next, it's like someone lit a match in a room full of fireworks. Suddenly, you're caught in the middle of a heated debate, and you're not even sure how it happened.

Maybe you've felt pressured to pick a side—like you had to make a statement just to keep up. Or maybe you care deeply about politics and can't understand how some people just shrug it off.

The truth is politics can stir up some serious emotions. Some people live for these conversations. They plant their flag, stand their ground, and are always ready for a debate. Others? They'd rather avoid the whole thing, steering clear of anything even remotely political.

But as followers of Jesus, we must ask a different question: How should we approach such a loaded topic in a way that keeps Jesus at the center?

To help us navigate this, let's turn to Scripture. Let's open our Bibles to **John 18:28-40 (NIV)**. This was a conversation between Jesus and Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, right before Jesus was crucified:

Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

"If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

"But we have no right to execute anyone," they objected. This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

“What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?”

They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

This scene takes place in the early hours of the morning, as Jesus was dragged from one courtroom to another; first from the Jewish religious leaders to the Roman governor, Pilate. The Jewish leaders had already decided Jesus deserved death, but there was a problem: under Roman rule, they didn't have the legal authority to crucify someone. So, they brought Jesus to Pilate, hoping to manipulate the political system to get what they wanted. What was ironic is that these religious leaders refused to step inside the Roman governor's palace for fear of becoming “ceremonially unclean” before the Passover, yet they have no issue orchestrating the execution of an innocent man. Their priorities were completely backwards.

Pilate didn't really care about Jewish religious disputes, but he was responsible for keeping the peace in Jerusalem. When he questioned Jesus, he tried to determine if Jesus was a political threat, someone who might lead a rebellion against Rome. But Jesus made it clear: “My kingdom is not of this world.” In other words, Jesus wasn't there to play the same power games as earthly rulers. His mission wasn't about taking over governments or leading an uprising; it was about revealing the truth.

Pilate, however, responded with a skeptical and jaded question: “What is truth?” It's the kind of response that revealed his own disillusionment. He was caught in a world of politics, corruption, and power struggles, and truth seemed like just another thing people twisted for their own advantage. In the end, even though Pilate saw no reason to convict Jesus, he gave in to the pressure of the crowd.

So, what can we learn from Jesus? When Pilate interrogated Jesus, he was trying to figure out if Jesus was some kind of political threat. Was He

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