

The Invitation

For Our Nation (Week 5)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

When we make our ideology more important than our theology, prayer loses its primary place in our lives to politics, and respect for all people is replaced by self-righteousness.

Key Scriptures

The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. Jonah 3:5-7 ESV

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the Lord and said, O Lord, is this not what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. Jonah 4:1-2 ESV

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 ESV

Why don't we pray for our nation?

1. We've lost sight of our mission.
2. We've become all about me, myself, and I.

How should we pray for our nation?

1. Humility
2. Integrity
3. Leadership

Start talking.

- What's your favorite part of living in America?
- As you process the bitter election cycle we just went through, what thoughts and observations do you have?

Start thinking.

- Why are we so prone to placing our ideology before our theology? Why is this such a dangerous thing?
- Pastor Ryan said that politics are naturally divisive and that prayer is what unites the Church? Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4. Why is it so important to pray for those in authority? Are there ways that we should pray for our leaders, beyond those mentioned in the message?

Start sharing.

- Do you pray for our nation regularly? Why or why not?
- Of the three ways in which Ryan called us to pray, which do you think is the most important? Why?

Start doing.

- What are some tangible steps you can take to pray for America and it's leaders?
- How will you specifically pray for our leaders? Whom do you plan to pray for?
- What are some tangible steps that we can take to make politics less of a divisive issue in the Church? Is there a way to find common ground?

Closing prayer.

Father, thank you for your reminder that you desire for all people to be saved, even our enemies. Help us to see your goodness and mercy this week. Remind us of your care and concern for all people. We pray for our nation, the United States of America. We ask that you would humble us, that you would restore integrity and morality, first in individual lives and then in our collective leadership. We pray for wisdom for Governor Polis, President Trump, and President-elect Biden. We ask that you would help them to govern rightly, as we desire to live a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.