

The Politics of Jesus
I Pledge Allegiance Series
Discussion Questions

- How have you experienced the last 5 years emotionally and relationally regarding politics? To be clear, this is not a question about your view of politics! It's a question about the effect of politics on your emotional and relational world.
- Read Luke 23:1-25.

What accusations do the religious leaders make against Jesus? Why should we consider the accusations to be political?

What one question does Pontius Pilate ask Jesus? Why should we consider it a political question?

Why is Jesus' answer to Pilate's question so ambiguous?
Why would it be confusing if Jesus said, "Yes"?
Why would it be confusing if Jesus said, "No"?

- Read John 18:36-37. Mark 1:14-15 and Colossians 1:13.

Based on these verses, is Jesus political or non-political? Why?

- If someone is devoted to Jesus and to their politics, do you think they will have times when they have to choose which is more important to them? Why or why not?

Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement, "**Your allegiance to Jesus will guide and energize your engagement in politics.**"

What will happen if a person's allegiance to politics comes before his or her allegiance to Jesus?

Placing someone or something as more important to us than God is idolatry. In his book, [The Party Crasher](#), Joshua Ryan Butler offers four diagnostic questions to help one discern if he or she has made politics an idol. Review the questions below and invite the group to share their self-assessment to the degree that they are comfortable.

1. Do you pay more attention to political pundits than you do to scripture?
2. Do you have a pattern of cutting people out of your life over political disagreements?
3. Is there a cultural leader who moves your heart more than Jesus?
4. Do you feel angry about politics often? Have you wanted to defend or justify your behavior about politics?

What will happen if a person's allegiance to Jesus comes before his or her politics?

Describe what you think it looks like when a person's allegiance to Jesus comes before his or her allegiance to politics.

How does pledging your allegiance to Jesus over your allegiance to politics make you feel? Why?