

The Politics of Jesus (3 of 7) Small Group Discussion Questions

SUNDAY WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic COVID-19 has forced us to adjust and adapt how we do church and stay connected to one another as a congregation. We're not closed as a church, we're just doing church differently! So, please stay connected to the body at Grantham Church. Join our congregation for worship online at 10:30 am each Sunday morning. Follow the worship liturgy and watch our [Vimeo](#) videos at granthamchurch.org/liturgy.

As usual, the sermons will be posted to the [recent sermons page](#) on our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for engaging with us online!

Sunday, October 11th 2020



Sermon Title: The Inaugural Address of Jesus

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2; Matthew 5:1-16; 9:13; Mark 1:15; Luke 4:14-30

Sermon Focus: Just as an incoming president reveals the things they intend to do when they come into power, Jesus does the same when he makes his royal announcement in Nazareth. But unfortunately, not everyone desires his Kingdom. Listen as Pastor David shares how Jesus' Messianic agenda is good news for those wanting a new world, but it's bad news for those who aren't willing to repent and let go of the old one.

1. As American citizens, we're familiar with Inauguration Day. Just as an incoming president reveals the things they intend to do when they come into power, Jesus does the same when he makes his royal announcement in Nazareth. Read Luke 4:14-30 together. Did you ever see Jesus' message as an inaugural address? Had you ever seen Jesus' baptism, temptations, and sermon being political in nature?
2. Consider each line in Jesus' reading of Isaiah 61:1-2 in Luke 4:18-19. Share any thoughts you have to how Pastor David expounded on this passage. Also, did you ever notice that Jesus stopped reading in the middle of a verse (Isa 61:2), not reading "and the day of vengeance of our God." Why is this significant?
3. We can see in Luke 4:28-30 that Jesus' good news was bad news for the folks in Nazareth. What do you think hindered them from receiving Jesus' words? Also, what kinds of hurdles keep Americans (even evangelicals) from accepting what Jesus is teaching us about God, the Kingdom, and his messianic agenda?
4. Pastor David said that Jesus blesses *three* kinds of people in the Beatitudes:
 - Those who are poor, marginalized, and forgotten
 - Those who hunger and thirst for what is right, fair, and just
 - Those who create and work for peace in all its forms
 Be honest. Where would you say you fit? Where does our church fit?
5. Have you ever thought of the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7) as the "Constitution of the Kingdom," as Pastor David called it? How do you understand this sermon?
6. Reflect on the Messianic Agenda and imagine what it would look like for Christians to embrace Jesus' aims. How might God be calling you to deepen your faith and your commitment to the things that mattered most to Jesus?
 - **Forgiveness** of sins and crippling debt
 - **Blessings** for the poor; help for the helpless, outsiders, etc.
 - **Compassion** for the broken-hearted
 - **Healing** physical and spiritual wounds—opening the eyes of the blind!
 - **Deliverance** from spiritual evil and from oppressive systems of abuse and injustice
 - **Rewards** for the merciful, for those who love their enemies, for peacemakers, and for those persecuted for Jesus' sake
7. In the invitation and response, Pastor David gave us steps to embracing the agenda of Jesus. Discuss each of these together. What does this look like for you?
 1. Begin by acknowledging where your priorities don't align with what Jesus taught/lived.
 2. Be honest and confess how the Jesus of the gospels doesn't always agree with you.
 3. Repent of the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that conflict with Jesus.
 4. Put Jesus' words into action.