

# Hope City Church

Going Deeper Notes | 10.02.22

John 18:33-36

## Shining Through Political Darkness

**Icebreaker:** The nation is sharply divided on the subject of politics: so much so, that politics is one of the two things that friends and family often just do not discuss with one another (the other being religion). Assuming these are two subjects that *can be* talked about, what kind of qualities or characteristics do you think a person would need to possess in order to make it safe for you to share your own personal perspectives? How well do you think you exhibit these same traits towards the people around you? Would the people you interact with on a regular basis say they would consider sharing their own perspectives on politics or religion with you? Why or why not?

### Going Deeper:

- 1) Read John 18:33-36 (p. 826, Life Transformation Bible, LTB). What do you notice about Jesus' demeanor in his interaction with Pilate? What do you appreciate about this interaction? What do you find to be challenging about his interaction with Pilate?
- 2) Getting personal: Do you believe that the people around you need to think, act, or vote like you do in order to be counted among your friends? How diverse (or homogenized) would you say your groups of friends are in the way their perspectives compare with yours? As Christ-followers, why would this be significant?
- 3) Let's revisit John 18:36. What does Jesus mean when he says that his Kingdom is not of this world? Assuming this is true, how would that factor into Jesus' priorities in who he gives his allegiance to? Based on who or what you place your focus on, what would the people who know you best say your "kingdom" is all about? Is that "kingdom" your job, your family, your bank account, your hobbies? Is it sports, politics...? What would God like to say to you about your priorities right now?
- 4) What is the significance of Jesus' question for Pilate in verse 34 when he asks, "Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?"? For personal reflection, who is Jesus to you? How does the life you lead reflect who Jesus is in your life?

**Action:** Make time to meet someone this week who thinks, acts, or votes very differently than you do. Without trying to persuade them to become like you, ask them questions in a way that helps you understand and appreciate them for who they are.

**Prayer Opportunity:** We would like to invite you to be a part of a prayer time together for each other, for our Church, and for our world! Please let us know you are interested by email: [info@hopecitychurchtucson.com](mailto:info@hopecitychurchtucson.com) Look for a follow up text from the church with more specifics. In the meantime, you can pray now!