

# TURN

THE GIFT OF REPENTANCE

**DATE:** March 19, 2023

**RECAP:** During the season of Lent, we spend time reflecting, repenting, and recalibrating so we can have greater allegiance to Jesus and His kingdom, in anticipation of Easter. Each week of this series, we've been focusing on a different aspect of our lives and how we can turn towards God's best for us. This week, the focus is on turning from political idolatry to Kingdom politics.

Participating in politics and our civic responsibilities is part of being a citizen of a country—it's when we begin to idolize our politics that the trouble occurs. You may be a political idolator if you experience salvific joy when your candidate wins, become depressed when your candidate loses, doubt the salvation of those who vote differently from you or otherwise demonize them, or try to convert people to your political party more than to Jesus.

Romans 14:17 says, "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Before we are citizens of any country, we are citizens of God's Kingdom. He is our King. We can turn away from political idolatry by giving our allegiance to King Jesus and prioritizing His mission to "seek and save the lost." (Luke 19:10)

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- Before you begin your small group discussion today, agree to have this conversation with love and grace. Your group should be a safe place for people to share and process as we turn together towards a view of Kingdom politics.
- What did you learn about politics in your home growing up? Perhaps your family was loyal to one political party over another and was very vocal about it. Perhaps politics was a taboo subject in your family. How did this form you and your political views today?

- Have you ever had charitable conversations about politics with another believer? What made this exchange positive?
- Read Mark 1:14-15. What does John mean when he calls on people to “repent and believe the good news”?
- Read 1 Peter 2:9. What are the identifiers of the Christ follower? What are Christ followers called to do?
- Luke 19:10 tells us the mission Jesus embarked on as He began His earthly ministry. In what ways can you join Jesus on His mission to seek and save the lost? Think of concrete examples you can act on this week.
- In what ways is God calling on you to repent from political idolatry?
- Pastor Derwin shared a scripture reading plan for us to follow. Meditate on the following verses and write down how your mindset begins to change from political idolatry to Kingdom politics:
  - Monday: Titus 2:11-14
  - Tuesday: Revelation 5:9-12
  - Wednesday: Revelation 21:1-4
  - Thursday: Romans 8:14-39
  - Friday: 1 Corinthians 15:53-58
  - Saturday: Matthew 5:3-16