

Power

SERMON NOTES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

John 18:33-38; 12:23-26; 13:2-5; 21:15-21 (NIV)

I. Introduction

a. What can Christians say about power?

II. Argument: We must speak truth to power. We must offer the world a better power that liberates instead of oppresses, a power that is truly good and does not perpetuate human brokenness!

a. It is what we were made for (Genesis 1:26-31)

b. The power of Jesus is fundamentally different from the power of the world (John 18:33-38)

III. Encouragement

a. Your weakness and failures do not disqualify you

b. You will look foolish to the world but not to God

c. The way up is the way down

IV. Question:

a. Courage and Hope

Discussion Questions

Sharing Life Together

1. Who is the best leader you have ever followed, and how did they utilize power?
2. Share about a time when you saw truth speak to power and hold power accountable to goodness and justice.

Reflecting on the Message Together

1. Read Genesis 1:26-31. Why do you think God gave these powers to humanity, even knowing that we would make a mess of things?
2. Read John 18:33-38. What stands out to you about Pilate questioning Jesus?
3. How is the power of Jesus different from worldly power? Are there any similarities? Why or why not?
4. How does the story of Peter in John 21:15-21 help affirm that our mistakes and weaknesses don't disqualify us from serving with God's power in the world? What lessons can we learn from Peter about the appropriate use of power?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. How does this passage help form our expectations around world power and wisdom and Christian power and wisdom? Do you think that Paul's analysis still holds true for today, that cross looks foolish to the world? Explain your answer.
6. What would be ways we might use the meaning of foot-washing that Jesus employed in John 13 and do something similar with people today?
7. How did God speak to you through the message?
8. How can we pray for one another?