

Undivided - Politics

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Read Jeremiah 29:1-14
 - a. How do you think the Israelites who had just been deported to Babylon were feeling?
 - b. How is this similar or different from the current situation within the U.S.?
 - c. What does it look like to work for peace and prosperity in our land, and pray for the welfare of our country? (v.7)
2. Kevin confessed the role of humor in his early political interest and affiliations. When did you first become interested in politics? How did that happen?
3. In this time of political polarization, what are the greatest challenges that you feel as a Christ follower when talking with others about political issues?
4. Kevin's epilogue contained these three quotes:
 - a. Therefore I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me.... If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely.... (Martin Luther, 1527)
 - b. The design of God in our cancer is not to train us in the rationalistic, human calculations of odds. The world gets comfort from their odds. Not Christians. Some count their chariots (percentages of survival) and some count their horses (side effects of treatment) but we trust in the name of the Lord our God (Psalm 20:7). God's design is clear from 2 Corinthians 1:9: "We felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead." The aim of God in our cancer (among a thousand other good things) is to knock the props out from under our hearts so that we rely utterly on him. (John Piper, during his battle with cancer)
 - c. Yet war does do something to death. It forces us to remember it. The only reason why the cancer at sixty or the paralysis at seventy-five do not bother us is that we forget them. War makes death real to us, and that would have been regarded as one of its blessings by most of the great Christians of the past. They thought it good for us to be always aware of our mortality. I am inclined to think they were right. (CS Lewis, Learning in Wartime)

Discuss the application of these ideas to our current challenges.