



Sermon Notes: I Pledge Allegiance

1. The addiction to power.

2. The abuse of power.

a. The love of power makes you a phony.

b. The love of power makes you a plotter.

c. The love of power makes you a people-pleaser.

3. Allegiance to the all-powerful.



Gospel Applications: I Pledge Allegiance

Questions.

1. According to texts like this, what motivated the religious leaders' rejection of Jesus? How would you appeal to someone who's rejecting Jesus for similar reasons today?
2. Who has position and power in our culture? What are some ways you see some of those people/groups abusing their power?
3. Referring to #2, what similar things do you do to maintain a sense of control or to protect your status or reputation?
4. Flattery has been described as saying to someone's face what you'd never say behind his/her back. Why did the religious leaders do this to Jesus? What do you think motivates flatterers?
5. If some aspect of your life is not built on Christ as Cornerstone, what kind of "construction defects" can you expect to emerge over time?
6. Who are some authorities in your life and what should you render to them?
7. What are some ways you could discern who/what gets your ultimate allegiance? What questions/tests might help you see what you're loyal to?
8. How does giving your allegiance to Christ free you from abusing power?

Prayer.

1. Ask the Lord to show you where you manipulate, use, and deceive others for personal gain. Confess this as sin, and ask God to show you how to love and serve them instead. (3 minutes)
2. Pray through the implications of all of life being *from, through, for, and to* Jesus. Ask him to give you the ability to live in the freedom of being loyal to him. (7 minutes)