

Sermon Title: The Presidential Imperative

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The Presidential Imperative

Truly God is the rock and the earlier you understand that the more solid ground you'll be on for the rest of your lives.

Upon last Sunday we had the Men of Vision meeting. Normally only men are allowed into the MOV meeting because after all it's called the Men of Vision, but last week was a little bit different. Women were invited and it was the first time we actually discussed politics. We have an upcoming major election, and I knew that there were many people for one reason or another who were simply not informed on the candidates and the issues.

We had two very well-informed and outspoken gentlemen at the meeting: Mr. Antonio Cunningham and Mr. Dwayne Mack. One took the Republican side and one took the Democratic side. We had each one of them make a presentation and give us the pros and cons of each so that we would have an educated analysis and would be able to make an informed decision about who to vote for.

And even in the dressing room this morning as we were having our makeup applied, Dionne who was at the meeting was asked, "Well who are you voting for now?" She said that she was still undecided. So we had a lot of discussion, a lot of facts and history brought forth and hopefully some of those who attended were able to make a rational decision. Some of you have already studied and have decided which direction you're going.

And as we were closing out the meeting, I asked Pastor James to just close us out for the day and give us our closing prayer. Even with all of the facts and history, James said the meeting brought something back to his memory. He reminded me of something I did in the presidential election two terms prior. As I was walking into the polls, being a staunch democrat, but for the first time I just stood in the line and I bowed my head and I asked, "Lord, who do you want me to vote for?"

Understand that all throughout history it has always been God who has always placed the king on the throne. Now the king may have been placed on the throne for reasons that we do not understand nor agree with. Sometimes God placed the king on the throne to punish the people because the people have been evil. He would send the land through famine, captivity and destruction because the people hadn't been good. But God has always placed leadership for one reason or another. But with our limited knowledge and understanding, we don't even understand part of the whole picture.

And I have learned just even with politics, I'm not as critical or judgmental as I used to be. The more things you go through in life, the less judgmental and critical you become. It's hard to lead anything. Can you imagine trying to lead a nation of as many as 350 million people with as many diverse mentalities and groups and demographics? Can you imagine trying to lead 350 million people and each one has a different idea of how the thing should be run. That's not an easy job so I don't criticize anybody for something I couldn't do any better. If I had to run this country, I'd have some issues. I really would. There would be some people outside picketing President Bronner all day long. No matter what you did, you're going to make someone extremely, extremely upset. So it's not an easy job. It's not a job that I would take on. It's not a job that you could even pay me to do.

Politics is tough. There are three things you can get into a big argument discussing: Politics, religion and sports. People just have radically different ideas and views on those three things. There's just so much secret stuff in politics. I used to read all of the conspiracy theories and all of the deep stuff; but when I thought about it, the government doesn't have any more secrets than the average person. I don't know if you all realize it or not, but there is a lot of stuff that you all have done that you would not tell the pastor. There is a lot of stuff right now that you all would not tell the pastor. You all have secret stuff yourselves. And I have another big flash for you. I'm one of the most open ministers that you'll ever find about my personal world, but I've got some stuff that I'm not going to tell you all. All of us, just like the government, have secret stuff that we're not going to tell anyone unless they find out.

Go to the polls and you vote and make sure that you are counted. In light of all of that, when James made that prayer and statement I had not even asked God about this particular election. For those of you who have made up your mind, you go ahead and vote for who you want to vote for. For those of you who have researched and decided, stick with what you have decided. I asked the Lord, "Who do I need to vote for?" because I have to cast my own vote. It's one man one vote; one woman one vote, and I have to cast my own vote.

When I asked the question just as God told me nearly 8 years ago as I was getting ready to vote for Gore and He said to vote for Bush, it shook me. I would've never voted for Bush in a hundred years. But my mind is not that of God's so for those of you who may be undecided and you don't know what to do, I'm talking to that group. You've listened to the arguments, you've seen the debates and you still don't know what to do. As I asked God the question, "Lord who do I need to vote for?" He spoke it instantly and clearly, without hesitation. So I at least have no question. So I'm not telling you who to vote for. I'm just telling you who I'm supposed to vote for. So if you have no earthly idea whatsoever then you just go ahead and vote for the same person that I'm going to vote for.

But one of the major keys in the election and one of the things that I do want to tell you to do is to vote. So no matter who you vote for, at least make your voice count by showing up at the polls. At least give respect and honor to those who have preceded us and who have bled, died and everything else trying to get the right to vote. If you're 18 years or older, you need to be registered and you need to be at those polls because it does make a difference which groups show up and which groups don't. So whatever you do and whomever you vote for, make sure that without question that you do vote.

And as I bowed my head and I asked God, "Lord who do I vote for?" He answered me in one simple word, "Barack." So that's who I'm voting for. You make your own choice. You do what you're led to and make your own choice. But if you have no idea and you don't know who to vote for or what to do then I would invite you to follow what I'm going to do.