



Home of the Brave
Part 2 – When a Nation Honors God
Pastor Ted Cunningham

Today, we finish a series for April and May that we've been in, going through the Book of Nehemiah. This series, for me personally, has done much for my walk with the Lord to help me develop a heart for the community. I've been here 17 years, but to begin to see needs and to ask questions that I haven't really asked or things I now see that I haven't seen in 17 years. I'm asking the Lord to continue to let this message be a sacred echo throughout the life of our church and in our community as we continue to try to meet the needs of our community from the economy and poverty and homelessness to just a priority for us the spiritual needs of this community. Next week, we're going to kick off summer with that idea as well.

Today is one of those emotional Sundays for me. I don't know about you, but I cried a little bit during worship and that's okay. I want you all to know it's okay that you get emotional. Today we're talking about *When a Nation Honors God*.

All week, I've been thinking about the passion that many of you have for this nation, and the passion for this nation runs deep. As Amy and I come to Memorial Day every year, we think of and are grateful for each of us having grandfathers. Our four grandfathers all served in World War II. We're grateful and we reflect on them, we look at pictures, and we talk to our children about this day. Every chance we get, we try to get our kids to Washington D.C. I know many of our students are in Washington right now, and I'm grateful for the opportunities they have to walk through our monuments and through our memorials and through a lot of establishment there to learn more about this nation and more about what this nation stands for.

The thing I've really been thinking about this week though is do we do a good enough job helping you when this nation doesn't honor God? That's really been on me as a pastor. Lifeway did a research study a couple of years ago. They surveyed protestant pastor, of which I was not one that they interviewed, so I didn't get to participate. I am a protestant pastor, but that's not why I wasn't survey; it just never came across my email. Fifty-three percent of pastors responding said they feel that many in their congregation have a love for their nation more than their Lord, or at least it feels that way.

I sense the stress that many of you have. I feel the stress that many of you have when this nation moves away from honoring the Lord. I can say that because I'm on Facebook. That's how I know that. Some of you are just worn out. I just want you to know today's message has been prayed over today and this week to help all of us function when we live in a nation that moves away from honoring God, or laws are

passed that don't align with God's Word. How do we do that? How do we move forward, follower of Jesus?

The most sobering moment for me in Washington D.C. is when I go to Arlington Cemetery. All these pictures I'm about to show you are pictures that I took with my phone, and I didn't even feel right taking this picture; it just didn't feel like a moment. Again, if I could just share with all of our young people. Personally, I believe there are moments in life that selfies are not required – I would say that is at our memorials and some of our special places around the nation – and just to guard your hearts on that. I don't even have a verse for that; I'm just sharing that with you as your friend to say some of the time when I pull out my phone to take a picture, it just doesn't feel right. But, this is a moment, when you watch the soldiers marching in honor of the tomb of the unknown soldier.

Then after we left here, we took our kids to the World War II monument. This is... I've slept great this week, just so you know. This isn't tired; this is just me... It's my mother. This is all the blame on my mother. I got all of this from my mother. She's back there bawling, and I had an eyesight on her for that last song. If you've ever been to the world war II monument, they have each of the states there represented and so we went to Illinois and talked about Grandpa Earl and went to Pennsylvania to talk about Grandpa Bill and then we went to Minnesota and talked about Grandpa Roland and Lloyd.

I'm a reader at monuments and it drives my kids nuts. How many of you go to museums and read literally everything in the museum? Our children hate us for that. It's like, "Can't we skim the museum, Dad?" "No, we paid like eight dollars to get in here; we're going to read everything on the wall." I just think how right now in our nation, when we need to be speaking more in the church on the value of women and on how all women have worth... I saw this in my pictures. I forgot that I had even taken it, but it's not just honoring the men who gave their lives in World War II, but this is President Roosevelt speaking:

"They have given their sons to the military services. They have stoked the furnaces and hurried the factory wheels. They have made the planes and have welded the tanks, riveted the ships, and rolled the shells." This is honoring all of those who... If you haven't studied history lately, I want to encourage you to get back to it because what did Winston Churchill say? *"Those who forget their past have no future."* Those who forget the past are bound to repeat it. I'm grateful for grandpas that went and sacrificed and surrendered to the call to go and stop an evil regime, from the slaughtering of Jews to trying to take over the world. I'm grateful for the sacrifice that was made.

Then you walk a little bit down from the World War II Museum to go to the Vietnam Wall. I think my kids got this from me and I hope you have the same, but we didn't do a lot of talking. It was about 110 degrees in July last year when I took these pictures. We were sweating bullets. I'll show you this next picture at the wall. I couldn't believe I got this. I don't know if you can tell, but this is the wall. There's no one standing in front of it, but if you see the reflection, there's no one there. I couldn't believe I was able to get this shot. We just took our time walking through.

Then you go to New York (I know our students are leaving from D.C. to go to New York) and you go to the 9/11 Memorial where the World Trade Center came down. As I walked through all of these

memorials and all of these monuments, I was torn. I'm torn because I'm processing all of it as a citizen of the United States of America, but I'm also processing all of it as a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven. Here's where we start today as we look at a nation that honors God.

I have a dual citizenship. I'm a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven and I'm a citizen of the United States. This creates tension for me and it should create tension for you. The Apostle Paul felt this tension. He wasn't a citizen of the United States, but he felt this tension.

I'm going to start today with the King James Version. It just felt right as we talked about history that we start with the old King James. This is the Apostle Paul. **"For I am in a strait betwixt two."** –Philippians 1: 23 KJV I love that. He's speaking there of the tension of being a citizen of heaven and a citizen of earth.

When you read it in the NIV, it says, **"I am torn between the two. I desire to depart and be with Christ...** Now watch; he resolves the tension. This is a tension I think we live with at all time, but this is a tension that can be resolved, and we want to resolve it today. **"...which is better by far."** And all God's people said... Amen. **"...but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body."** A citizen here, as Solomon would put it, under the sun, life upon this earth. He resolves the tension here. I have a primary allegiance within this dual citizenship. I have a dual citizenship, but I have a primary allegiance and my primary allegiance is to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Now, we just stood, and we sang the National Anthem and I placed my hand over my heart. The two are not in conflict. This is what I want my young friends to understand as the church leaders today... There's this conflict, and some of you aren't familiar with it and you don't need to be if you don't want to be, but it's this moving away from churches and Christians being patriotic. I don't think we have to move away from it or depart from it; we do have to bring balance to it. We have to make sure we understand the tension between being a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven and a citizen of the United States of America.

I have no problem whatsoever in my Christian faith standing during the National Anthem, placing my hand over my heart and pledging allegiance. I have no problem with that at all. This is the secret, this is the key. I do that not as worship, but as respect. That's the difference. I'm glad I'm getting amens. All of you that just amen-ed me, I'm not going to ask you to raise your hand, but raise your hand. I'd like to see all of you who raised your hand. I need that because I need you to be on the same page with me before I show you the next slide. So, you agree with me that you have a dual citizenship and a primary allegiance. Are you with me on that? Good, because this is the next point:

My primary allegiance requires that I love those who don't pledge allegiance. Are you with me on that? My primary citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven requires that I love all of those who don't honor God to the level I want to honor God. Oh, you were with me. We were there. But now we're talking about the person who doesn't respect the flag like you respect the flag. And my primary allegiance requires that I love them, that I care for them. Again, I love how Adam treated this last week. I can love them and completely disagree with them.

I did it a couple of weeks or last week – whenever it was – with the royal wedding. I was able to watch the Reverend Michael Curry deliver a wonderful message, knowing that I 100% completely disagree with him on marriage. I told Amy it was good practice for me. I define marriage completely different than this pastor does, but I can listen without getting all worked up. I was really calm while listening to him.

I love what Ed Stetzer... He's a department chair at Wheaton College. It's funny; I put Ed Stetzer in there because I'm even using quotes today from men I don't agree with 100% just to prove to myself I can listen to people I don't agree with because my primary allegiance to the Kingdom of Heaven requires that I love. Ed Stetzer says, *"We are certainly called to love this earthly country he has placed each of us in. But we are part of a broader family than just a country. We are part of a global, universal, unchanging kingdom that is under the rule and reign of Christ. We are his subjects, loyal to him. Allegiant to him. Serving him."*

Now, if you read this quote or if you've read the article that this quote was in, Ed says in there, and kind of gives his theology away, which is a little bit different than mine, he says, "In the Old Testament, God *had* a special relationship with Israel. In the New Testament, God has a new relationship with the church." I kind of function under a dispensational system of theology, meaning God's working in dispensation, and I would never say God *had* a special relationship with Israel. I would say God *has* a special relationship with Israel. You're thinking I'm getting picky with just one word. But I believe there is a future for Israel in the millennial kingdom. We're not going to eschatology today, but I just want you to understand that part of dispensationalism teaches the church did not replace Israel. The church is God's, functioning within grace and a new dispensation, and you and I are part of the church. And I can be a part of the church, functioning in the church, serving well in the church, just serving and loving and caring and giving to the church, without it questioning or throwing a shadow over my pledging allegiance to the United States. You can love this country. Some of you are here from other countries today. You can love your country of origin, no problem. We desire that in our nation, but here's what we want to resolve.

We desire our nation's leaders and citizens to honor God. I want to vote for people that will put supreme court justices in that will protect the life of unborn babies. I desire that. I desire laws to be created and laws to be established that align with God's word. I don't have any problem sharing that with you. I desire that.

I went to liberty university under Jerry Falwell, founder of the Moral Majority. I got a BS in Political Science. Sit on that for just a second. I'm just going to take a BS in Political Science and leave that joke right there and do nothing more with that; I'm going to let you have that. So, I desire... I love it when I hear an elected official honor God. I love when our Vice President speaks words of his Savior, knowing he has a genuine relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. That is refreshing to my soul. Again, we're going to move to how you and I move forward when a nation doesn't. This is where I think the struggle is. This is where the tension is that I believe we can resolve as citizens of Heaven and citizens of the United States.

Proverbs 28: 2 NIV– ***When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers...*** This Proverb reminds me of "too many cooks in the kitchen." ***...but a ruler with discernment and knowledge maintains order.***

I'm going to share it with you from another translation. I like how The Good News says it. ***A nation will be strong and endure when it has intelligent and sensible leaders.*** Sensible... That's a word we need. It's my Grandma Mary Jane who is with the Lord but died at 90. She said, "You want to fix everything in our government? Just sent a bunch of seventh graders in there." Because seventh graders are sensible I think is what she was trying to say there. But sometimes it just gets out of hand.

Hopefully, we've created the tension and now we're going to start moving towards Nehemiah, but a few more quotes. Dr. Charles Stanley says, "*Because government is instituted by God as his minister for good (Romans 13) it functions best when leaders honor and obey him. Throughout Israel's history...*" We see this and we're seeing this today as we jump back into Nehemiah. "*...the course of the entire nation was influenced by each king's beliefs and behavior.*" It was influenced by leaders who had discernment, leaders who were sensible, leaders who honored God. but when the king's beliefs and behavior didn't, you know what happened.

We're going to see Nehemiah's passion today. The last verse in the last chapter... Today we're covering Chapters 10, 11, 12, and 13. I just want you to know we've got like 15 minutes to do that. You're going to see his passion as the nation has prioritized scripture, confessed sin, and made a vow of faithfulness. And then they start breaking the vow already. They start going against what they committed to the Lord. Nehemiah – using a theological term here – goes freaky nuts. When we get to this scene, it's really kind of a brutal scene the way Nehemiah deals with them in Chapter 13. We're not a church that shies away from difficult passages. We're going to put the passage on the screen because when you see this, you're going to wonder why would Nehemiah react that way? It's because he's looking at his people saying, "The behavior you're living in right now is what put us in this mess in captivity years ago. It's what put us in this to begin with. Do you guys not see that?" Again, a nation that forgets its history is bound to repeat it.

Nehemiah 9 – I'm going to begin where Adam ended in Chapter 9. **38** "*In view of all this...*" Everything we looked at last week in Nehemiah. They've made a vow of faithfulness, they've prioritized scripture. You read in Chapter 9, in psalm form, this beautiful commitment, this repentance, and today, we're going to see repentance alone is not enough. It's repentance and then changed behavior. Let's say "Yes, we're sorry, we confess what we did, but now we're going to change the way we live." And this is where it starts. "*In view of all of this, we are making a binding agreement, putting it in writing...*" Some of you are like, "My handshake is just as good," but there are times you need to get it in writing so both sides know exactly what was meant and what was committed to. "*...and our leaders, our Levites and our priests are affixing their seals to it.*"

When you get to Chapter 10, he says, "*...bind themselves with a curse and an oath to follow the Law of God given through Moses the servant of God and to obey carefully all the commands, regulations and decrees of the Lord our Lord.*" They are binding themselves to this agreement to follow the Lord, to return to the law, to know the law, to the public reading of the scripture. They have confessed their sins and now they are changing their behavior; they are binding themselves to this. They are going to follow the Lord. They have rebuilt the laws.

As we are going to see in this text as well, there are many names in Chapters 10 – 13. The resettling of the City of Jerusalem, the repopulating of the City of Jerusalem. Now that this is happening, they are going to make sure they don't find themselves in this mess again, by following the Lord. Not just following the Lord, but also his commands, his regulations, and decrees because they are for us, not against us.

Then in Chapter 12, there's now going to be the dedication of the wall. Many scholars believe there was a delay from the completion of the wall in Chapter 6 to the dedication of the wall in Chapter 12 because they had a lot to deal with among the people. They had a lot to get right among them as a people, not just physical with the wall. But when they get to the dedication of the wall... I love that what Carolyn shared in worship is true here. ***27 At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully*** which is what worship should be.

I spoke with someone earlier this week that thought our worship was too celebratory here at Woodland Hills. I just had to walk away because I honestly didn't even have a response for that. I didn't even know what to say to that. We celebrate. We worship here. If you're new, visiting our church and your children brought you here and you're from out of town and this doesn't look or feel or smell like your church, I just want to encourage you to rethink church. Hopefully, every church that preaches the gospel of Jesus Christ today in this country is celebrating joyfully. It's exuberant. We are grateful to be here. We're grateful for what the Lord has done for us.

This is what Nehemiah is doing. He's saying, "Do you understand how far we've come. May we celebrate, may we rejoice. We want to dedicate all of this." ***...the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres.*** He said, "We are going to remember where we've come from. We're going to remember that the Lord brought us to here." It's not hard to believe that the wall could be rebuilt in 52 days when you know it was the Lord working through them. And they are recognizing that as they worship.

Do you know when we gather here each week and worship, that's what we're doing. We're celebrating, we're giving thanks, we're rededicating ourselves to the Lord. We're saying, "You know what? We didn't just make it through another week; you brought us through this week. You have something for us to do. You have done something through us." That's why we celebrate joyfully. That's why we give thanks. That's why we want you to know what we're for, not just what we're against.

So, Nehemiah is passionate. He is celebrating with a binding agreement. He's called the people. He starts instituting all of these reforms to get people back to the commands, decrees, regulations, and the Law of God.

And when you get to Chapter 13, you find people breaking them. Doesn't this remind you of the children of Israel being rescued out of Egypt? They get to other side, they've just seen one of the greatest miracles of all time, the parting of the Red Sea. They get to the other side and as soon as they get a little hungry, they start whining. But when you read the story of the exodus, what do they do as soon as they get to the other side of the Red Sea? They have a worship service. They praise their father

in heaven for delivering them, for rescuing them, for giving them freedom from bondage of hundreds of years. But then as soon as they get hungry, they start whining again.

You can imagine a leader who has gone to the king... I don't have time to review the whole book that we've been through over the last two months, but he's been to the king, he has asked permission to go back to Jerusalem after he hears that the people are disgraced and the wall is in ruins. He asks to go back and rebuild. He asks for a detail to protect him. He asks for supplies to help get the wall built. He sees this happen quickly. He faces grave opposition and discouragement. There is conflict from within the community. The wall gets built and they're now having this great worship service, dedicating the wall to the Lord, and we're going to end this book... I wish we could end this book more on a celebratory note, but people are already going back to what took them into captivity in the first place.

Sometimes I throw a verse up that I make up just so to jar you. I'm not making this up at all. This is straight from Nehemiah 13 when he realized people weren't following through. ***25 I rebuked them and called curses down on them. I beat some of the men and pulled out their hair.*** I want to remind you Nehemiah is the go to Book in the Old Testament and the Bible for that matter where we teach leadership principles. Some of you are like, "That's my verse for Facebook this afternoon. I'm going to find every person I disagree with, I'm going to find every person that doesn't honor God and I'm going to call curses down from heaven on them and if I meet them personally (maybe with your words) I'm going to beat them to a pulp. And if I get face to face with them, I'm going to start pulling out their hair."

This is a brutal scene. Where are we going from here? This is a leader who is so passionate about getting the people to follow the Lord and to stay true to their commitment. When they break it, he resorts to using his hands. The lesson for us here is not that we become a brutal people. The application here for us is not that we start beating people up that break God's laws. We don't go after Christians who have fallen away from the faith. We don't go after those who made a commitment to the Lord years ago, but now they're not following him, and go call down curses on them, beat them up, and pull out their hair. But it's that you and I would have a passion for the Lord as Nehemiah has a passion for the Lord. That we would stay true to the commitment of God. That we would stay true to the commitment we made before the Lord. Again, how do we do this when those around us don't? This is what we want to help more with in this church. Going back to something Ed Stetzer said in trying to bridge the gap between Nehemiah 13 and where we are as a nation.

"Every country – even the one that we call home – (Including the one that we've been studying and the one that we call home. We've been studying Israel as we studied the Old Testament, as we've been studying Judah here through Nehemiah) is in the darkness of sin, brokenness, and suffering. God is calling his people out of that darkness that we may proclaim him among all the nations. God loves and chooses people, not countries, under this covenant."

I know some of you watch a lot of end times TV on Christian television. I've heard Christians say, "God has a special relationship with the United States." No, he doesn't. Not in the Bible. You can't say the special relationship he has with Israel has been replaced with that of the United States. I don't believe the church has replaced Israel and I don't believe the United States has replaced Israel. We have to be good in the way that we study the Bible.

Some of you might be thinking this is a pretty strong patriotic message for Memorial Day, but I hope that we would understand our primary allegiance, that you would understand living in a nation that is removing itself from God's Law and when laws are written that don't align with God's word, how do we then behave? You can love this nation, you can love being a citizen of the United State, you can pledge allegiance and you can do all of that with your primary allegiance being the Kingdom of Heaven.

I like what C.S. Lewis... I'm going to give you some quotes from the English and from the Scottish. I thought we should probably go outside of our country. C.S. Lewis said be careful, speaking of patriotism. He said, *"This love (patriotism) becomes a demon when it becomes a god."* We have to be careful that our patriotism doesn't become our primary allegiance.

I dropped my daughter off every day this year... pretty much every day at the School of the Ozarks. On the outside of the School of the Ozarks – a school that we are very grateful for in the training of our daughter – there are five goals for the School of the Ozarks. They are listed outside the school on a sign. It reads, Academic, Vocational, Cultural, Christian, Patriotic. We are grateful for all of these, but not in this order. I make sure my daughter knows that. Here's what I love. She knows that follower of Jesus is our priority, above academics. I say that for all my student friends in here that are getting a report card this week in the mail. Your walk with Jesus is more important than your report card, and all the students said... Amen. And all the parents said...

But do you know what I'm excited about? I know what I just shared is true of every administrator at the School of the Ozarks. Do you know what's even cooler than that? I think of all the leaders in our church who are in the public schools all around our community... When they look at this list... Obviously, they are teachers, principals, administrators. Academics are important, but I can tell you we have one elder who is a principal here in our community and his initials are Bryan Bronn. I believe I speak on his behalf when I tell follower of Jesus is the priority. I'm grateful for the Christian leaders in public, private, home, Christian schools who say we understand the role of our faith in this.

This is why Nehemiah ends by simply saying this: **31 "Remember me with favor, my God."**

Lord, when the people around me... Whether they stick to this agreement or not, you called me to be a leader. I'm going to do everything I can in my power to follow you and to stay true to your law, to your decrees, to your regulations, and in doing so, I'm not looking to them for favor. I'm looking to you for favor.

Some of you feel like your responsibility and role is to beat other people into submission to following Christ and respecting the flag. I'm here to tell you to ask the Lord for the favor. Ask for favor from the Lord, not from other citizens and not from other believers.

Some practicals as we close. **When our nation ceases to honor God, we don't.** We choose not to. So, here's some things that you can do.

1. Remember. That's what this weekend is all about. We will remember our relationship and primary allegiance to the Lord. We will also remember those who sacrificed. That's what we're doing this weekend.

2. Pray. I can't encourage you enough. I know we just came out of the National Day of Prayer. I can't encourage you enough to pray for our leaders. We do. I want you to know I pray as much for Donald Trump as I did for Barack Obama, maybe more. Whoever is in office, whether you agree with them or not, I pray you would make them a part of your daily prayer. Go to your heavenly Father, praying for our leaders.

3. Vote. I do. Again, we spoke this in 2016 and it's a message we can bring back out. Evangelicals were divided over the character, at that time, of the candidate, and now over the character of our president. I'm still divided with people over the character of our president. Many of you... I love you dearly and you're going to come up to me and want to argue, but we're divided over that and that's okay because we are held together on essential beliefs. I vote for those essentials. At the top of my list is the protection of the unborn. Once I know where you stand with that... What you believe about life will affect all of your other policies. If you believe life is essential, you should have a passion to care for and protect the unborn. Care for and protect the immigrant. I didn't get as many amens on that one. You and I are called to protect and care for the unborn. We're called to care for and protect the immigrant or the refugee, the poor, the impoverished. What you believe about life should affect all of those policies, not just one or two. Vote for people who value life.

4. Pay your taxes. I have written a check for taxes for the past 24 years of my life. For some reason, I'm always over, so I have to write a check. Do you realize writing that check can be an act of worship? Are you grateful for the freedom you have? Are you grateful for the safety that we have in our nation? I don't know if you know this, but that all cost money. I can write that tax check going, "Oh that police officer pulling me over right now? Thank you, Father, for keeping our streets safe from the pastors of our community." When I found out how much our police officers make in our community... I'm just going to go there. I want to treat every sermon like it's my last, so we're just going to give it all out there. I was shocked when I found out how much our police officers make. I'm tell you they don't make anything. Maybe we should vote to pay more taxes to help out in this area. Some of you are like, "We're visiting that Faith and Wisdom across the streets next Memorial Day." But you read this in Romans 13. If you owe taxes, pay taxes. Give honor. Give respect. Submit to the governing authorities.

5. Obey the law. To give you another Scottish scholar, I like what William Barkley says. "There should be no better and no more conscientious citizen of any state than it's Christians." Followers of Jesus should be the best citizens in the country. We should be the ones following the law, paying the taxes, praying for, honoring, and respecting our leaders. They should look to the church and know when you think about what's right and what's wrong, the church will tell you and they will do it in a way full of grace. When a leader is wrong, they'll call it out.

I'm calling out evangelical friends of mine who are spending a lot of time in the White House right now. Don't keep silent so you can keep your access. I have friends that are going to the White House every month and they're spending time, but when something is said or done that doesn't align with the Word

of God, under another president, they would have been screaming it from the roof tops, but now it's kind of quiet because we don't want to lose our invitation to the White House. Speak up and do it in a way that honors the Lord and honor leaders.

6. Love your neighbor. Here's the final big idea. **Our primary allegiance to the kingdom of God requires that we love every single person in this nation whether they honor God or not.** We are called to love, we're called to care. I love what Bob Goff said this week: "If you want a report card on your faith, just look at how you're treating those you disagree with the most."

Now this is the last slide. By the way, I send my notes off on Friday. The Lord has to be done speaking around noon on Friday because the slides have to be made. I sent these off at noon on Friday and at 2:00 pm, six hours after giving birth to Nash Gumm, Katie sends back all of these slides. I respond back with, "Oh, please tell me Katie Gumm did not prepare these slides." She responds back, "Well, I didn't have a lot going on." I don't know whether to be mad or to give her employee of the month parking out there. Will you lead your home, Matt, and tell your wife not to work six hours after giving birth? Anyway... give her a gift card after this.

1 Peter 2: 12 – ***Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors*** (those who don't honor God). ***Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he Judges the world.*** At the moment he visits them, that their hearts would be influenced and turn towards salvation.

Father, it's in the name of Jesus that we thank you for our primary allegiance to the Kingdom of Heaven and this weekend, as we remember those who have sacrificed and fallen for us to be citizens of the United States. We do so with grateful hearts. I pray for our leaders, I pray for our president, I pray for our vice president, I pray for our Congress and our Senate and our Supreme Court.

I pray that by a miracle of God, our laws will be overturned, and we will begin protecting the unborn in this country. I pray that we begin, as a nation, valuing all life of every nation, of every color, of every race, those who honor God and those who do not. I pray we love and care for those that when someone disagrees with us, the way we honor you will be displayed in our actions, and we would do so in celebration and thanksgiving and dedication of our lives to you.

Thank you for what you're doing in this church. Continue to use Woodland Hills in this community and it is in the name of Jesus that everyone agreed and said... Amen.