

Divine Right

Carries On

Sermon 1 Of 4 On Prayer

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Divine Right Of Kings

- Ancient idea that kings were selected by gods
- Occurs in ancient Rome, Old Testament, medieval philosophy
- Not espoused by Jesus
- Encourages emperor worship, dictatorship
- Discourages democracy
- Helped keep the masses subdued
- Concept recently preached in council prayer

04-19-2022 City Council Prayer

Pray with me: Heavenly father, creator of all things, we thank you for this day made for us and filled with hope and life and goodness. Not only have you created this day for us, you've created us for this day. Thank you for your presence and blessings over this great city of Sioux Falls. We are grateful for your hand in the affairs of men. Before the creation of all things you saw this place, this day, and the men and women who are leading and making decisions on behalf of the people, city, and land of Sioux Falls.

Invocation Prayer Part 2

Father we ask for your spirit of wisdom and revelation to fall upon each councilman and councilwoman and upon our mayor. You have appointed and anointed each of them to lead during this moment in history. May they be filled with godly discernment, having ears to hear and eyes to see to rightly divide what comes before them. With the authority given to them by you and by the people may they rule with sincerity, compassion, wisdom, and love; bringing about prosperity for our city and the people that live and do business here.

Part 3

Father thank you for leading, guiding, and presiding over this meeting on April the 19th, 2022. Your great mercy and love for Sioux Falls and all who dwell and work here is so very evident. Today we acknowledge again your greatness and your goodness for us. I pray for all matters brought before this council this evening to be done so with dignity and honor and a spirit of cooperation to bring forth understanding of opinions and positions. It is in that spirit we will find unity to move forward in courage and strength.

Part 4

We are so very grateful for this city, state, and nation for which we live. A place where freedoms have been fought for and continue to be fought for. A place to be heard, seen. And a part of something bigger than each of us individually. A place where it has been declared and we declare again that "Under God the people rule." God bless those who present matters before this council tonight. Bless each council member and our mayor as they serve and make decisions this day and the days ahead. It's in your mighty and powerful name we pray. Amen.

Troubling Phrases

- "Father ... You have appointed and anointed each of them ..."
- "With the authority given to them by you ..."
- "May they rule with sincerity ..."
- "Father thank you for leading, guiding, and presiding over this meeting ..."
- "We are so grateful for this city ... for which we live"
- "... we declare again that 'Under God the people rule.'"

Major Troubles

- Most politicians are not interested in the compassion & social causes Jesus taught
- Most politicians are anointed by big money to protect big money
- God's name is being used to support local government that violates civil rights, fights the people's will, protects bribery, supports corruption
- This prayer is an irreverent campaign speech by someone the mayor picked
- Mayor has only partial responsibility for speech

Recommendations

- Publicly disavow this surrogate religious campaign speech
- Cancel the weekly prayer if you don't mean it
- We are called to accept troubled people, feed the hungry, bring good news to the poor, welcome strangers, open prisons to those who are bound
- Remember what Jesus taught: help people and love one another as I have loved you

Going Deeper

- I bear no personal animosity, you're just people doing a job how it is designed to be done
- The corrupt system protects itself every way it can
- No lie is too bold – and they're everywhere
- No scam is too destructive – and there are many
- No war too horrific – and they never stop
- It's all about self-glorification (greed, money, power) for the few in control
- The rest of us are caught in the culture-wide web of deceit, fear, dominance, and materialism. Some willing, a few resistant, most politically detached.

Enjoy Tonight's Watery Landscape

