

Study Guide/Discussion for Paradigm-January 28, 2024

Let's Get Started

1. What was your favorite subject when you were in School? What do you remember from history classes?
2. Did you ever take a Civics class? If you did, what sort of things did you discuss?
3. Name some "Kings" you are aware of from history. What can you remember about them?
4. Mr. Federer said one way to understand human history is to look at the two forms of government-Top down (Kings, emperors, sultans, the party etc) or Bottom-up (democratically elected and accountable officials)-was that summary helpful to you?
5. Talk about one line or concept you heard on Sunday that you had never heard before and made you think differently.

Let's Dig In

1. Talk about these two quotes. **Cicero-"Not to know what happened before you were born is to remain forever a child."** **John F. Kennedy-"History, after all, is the memory of a nation."** One of the admonitions we receive often in scripture is "Remember"-why is a memory of history important?
2. Human history can be understood by two forms of government: top-down or bottom up. Bill Federer told us there have only been two exceptions to the "Top-Down" form of government in history. Do you recall the two exceptions?
3. As we walked through the history of Israel, we saw them revert from a "Bottom up" form of government back to a top-down form. Mr. Federer cited the verse Pastor Derrick preached from in the third "Paradigm" sermon (Judges 21:25). What did you hear in the recounting of Judges that surprised you? If you had to recount how a people, a nation, falls back into bondage, how would you describe it from those events in Judges and I Samuel?
4. Why do you think tyranny is the default setting of human government?
5. On Sunday, we learned of the second time the new form of government appeared in history-it began with the Reformation in 1517, continued with the Pilgrims, and culminated in the American Revolution. What part of that history grabbed you attention and imagination?

6. How did Mr. Federer's message change how you viewed the books of Exodus and Deuteronomy?
7. Talk about the development of "Two-Kingdom" theology and its impact on our Western World. How do you see it playing out in our culture today?
8. If someone says, "Churches, preachers, and Christians ought to avoid politics," how do you respond?
9. One concept Mr. Federer discussed was "Silence Equals Consent" from Numbers 30. He quoted several others like Leviticus 20:1-5; Proverbs 24:11-12, also the story of Esther and Moses and Aaron and the rock in Numbers 20. How did this part of the lesson challenge and convict you?
10. Discuss sins of "commission" versus sins of "omission".
11. Think and talk about the Christian loving another by rebuking them (Leviticus 19:17-18)
12. Mr. Federer said, "The answer is LOCAL, LOCAL, LOCAL" what does that mean? If someone is frustrated, and even frightened, by the decay of our culture what steps would you tell them to take?

Let's Go Deeper

Here are some resources for further learning

1. Mr. Federer's Website- <https://americanminute.com>
2. On Mr. Federer's website you can order several books. We would recommend beginning with "Who is the King in America?"
<https://americanminute.com/collections/printed-books/products/who-is-the-king-in-america-and-who-are-the-counselors-to-the-king-an-overview-of-6-000-years-of-history-why-america-is-unique>
3. Change to Chains-
<https://americanminute.com/collections/printed-books/products/change-to-chains>
4. "The Magna Carta of Humanity" by Os Guinness-
<https://www.amazon.com/Magna-Carta-Humanity-Revolutionary-Freedom/dp/0830847154>