

# The Way of the Lamb

**Main idea:** Why does it seem that politics brings out the worst in us? There's got to be a better way, and as we enter into another election season..."The Way of the Lamb" highlights the greatness of Jesus and His ministry over and above the way of the republicans, democrats, or any other political body. Preach this sermon around the election, and highlight the importance of putting our hope in Jesus.

**Prayer:** *"Father God please lead us and guide us as we enter into another election season. Help us to navigate the pitfalls and temptations to set ourselves against others, to argue, and to defend our worldly positions to others. Keep our eyes focused on you as we pursue a better way."*

**Scripture:** Isaiah 9:7, Philippians 2:5-8, James 4:1-3, Hebrews 6:19-20

(All scripture is taken from the NIV unless otherwise noted)

## INTRODUCTION

**Opening Illustration/Story:** Start with a story or current event related to politics or elections to capture attention.

It sure seems like politics has been getting more and more divisive. Maybe it's always been like this - or maybe we really are being pulled further and further apart. It feels like you have to choose a side, and no matter which side it is, you're going to have to defend your position.

Today I want to offer a different strategy for the election season. A new way, that's really an old way, it's the *way of the lamb*. It's a strategy for keeping Jesus as our focus, regardless of what the political pundits or the mainstream media has to say. No matter what fear mongering or emotional bait traps are set... It's a strategy for believers everywhere to keep the main things the main things while still participating in the democratic process.

*The Way of the Lamb* is truly the only way for all of us who follow Jesus. And our prayer is that He will lead us and guide us through all of life, including another election season.

## MAIN TEACHING

We all know that there are 2 things you don't talk about when meeting new people... Do you know what they are?

Politics and Religion.

And why are these topics off limits in mixed or new company? You guessed it - because these things incite the most anger, opinion, and frustration... Which we'll talk about in another few minutes... But for now a first point to be made, or remade is this; Our battle is not with each other, it's not with flesh and blood.

### **Point 1: Our Battle is Not with Flesh and Blood.**

In Philippians 2:5-8, we are given a divine example of humility through the life of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul urges us to have the same mindset as Christ, who, though He was in the very nature of God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage. Instead, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in human likeness. Jesus humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. This passage reveals the heart of our Savior, who, despite having all the power and authority in the universe, chose to serve rather than to be served. He laid down His rights, His glory, and His very life for the sake of others.

In stark contrast, consider the ambitions and self-promotion that often characterize political campaigns. The world teaches us to seek power, prestige, and influence, to elevate ourselves above others. This pursuit of power stands in opposition to the example Jesus set. While politicians might engage in battles of words, debates, and promises, fighting to come out on top, Jesus showed us a different way. His battle was not against flesh and blood, not against other people, but against sin, death, and the spiritual forces of evil. He fought not by elevating Himself, but by humbling Himself to the lowest point—dying on a cross for the salvation of all.

As followers of Christ, we are called to embody this same humility and servant heart. Our battle is not with flesh and blood; it is not about winning arguments, gaining followers, or seeking positions of influence. Instead, our battle is spiritual, and the weapons we use are love, humility, and service. We are to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, who showed us that true greatness is found not in power, but in sacrifice. Let us, therefore, reject the world's pursuit of power and prestige and embrace the call to serve others with the humility of Christ. In doing so, we reflect His character and bring glory to God, showing the world a different way—a way of love, grace, and selfless service.

But why is this so hard to accomplish? Why is it so hard to humble ourselves and care for others as Jesus did?

## **Point 2: What Causes Fights and Quarrels Among You?**

James 4:1-3 confronts us with a sobering truth about the root of conflicts and quarrels. James asks, "What causes fights and quarrels among you?" He then points us inward, revealing that the source of these conflicts is not external circumstances or other people, but the desires that battle within us. These desires, whether for power, recognition, material possessions, or control, drive us to actions that harm others and ourselves. We may not always recognize it, but when we give in to these desires, we allow them to dictate our behavior, leading to conflict, strife, and even violence.

**Pastor** - Does this all sound too familiar? You might bring up some culturally relevant examples from the past few years that highlight what happens when our ambitions and desires get the best of us.

James goes further to expose the destructive cycle that these unfulfilled desires create. "You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight." This passage paints a picture of the futility and frustration that come from trying to satisfy our deepest longings through worldly means. When we seek fulfillment in things like wealth, status, or power, we inevitably find ourselves dissatisfied, because these things cannot truly satisfy the hunger of our souls. This unmet desire then leads to envy, jealousy, and conflict, as we struggle against others in an attempt to secure what we believe will bring us happiness.

The key to breaking this cycle, according to James, lies in turning to God. "You do not have because you do not ask God." Instead of striving to fulfill our desires through worldly means, we are called to bring our needs and desires before God in prayer. When we seek God first, He not only meets our needs in ways that are truly fulfilling, but He also aligns our desires with His will. This shift in focus—from self-centered striving to God-centered seeking—transforms our hearts and brings peace into our relationships. Instead of quarrels and conflicts, we find contentment and harmony, rooted in the understanding that true satisfaction comes from God alone.

What we learn is this; He is the only way.

## **Point 3: Jesus is The Way**

In Hebrews 6:19-20, we are reminded that Jesus is our anchor of hope, a sure and steadfast foundation that holds us secure no matter what storms we face. The author of Hebrews assures us that this hope is "an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." This

hope is not dependent on the shifting sands of political outcomes, economic conditions, or societal trends. It is rooted in the unchanging character of Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Isaiah 9:7 adds another layer of this promise, declaring that "of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end." This verse points to the eternal nature of Christ's reign, a kingdom that will never fail, falter, or fade away.

When we contrast the promises of political leaders with the promises of God, the difference is striking. Political leaders, regardless of their intentions, can only offer temporary solutions to the challenges we face. Their promises, though often well-meaning, are limited by human frailty and the ever-changing nature of the world. Policies change, administrations come and go, and the promises made during campaigns can quickly become unfulfilled as circumstances shift. In contrast, the promises of God are steadfast and eternal. His Word never fails, and His covenant with His people remains unbroken. While political leaders may offer hope for a season, only Jesus can offer a hope that endures for all eternity.

In light of this, we are called to place our hope and trust in Jesus alone. While it is natural to care about the direction of our nation and to be concerned about political outcomes, our ultimate hope must be anchored in Christ, not in the results of an election or the promises of any leader. Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords, reigns over all, and His kingdom will never be shaken. By fixing our eyes on Him and trusting in His eternal promises, we can navigate the uncertainties of this world with confidence, knowing that our future is secure in His hands. Let us, therefore, encourage one another to look beyond the temporary and place our hope in the One who holds all things together.

## CONCLUSION

As we wrap up our time together, let's take a moment to reflect on the important truths we've explored today. We began by looking at Jesus as our ultimate example of humility and service, contrasting His selfless sacrifice with the often self-centered ambitions that characterize our world, especially in the realm of politics. Jesus' life teaches us that true greatness is found not in seeking power or prestige, but in laying down our lives in service to others, just as He did.

We then turned our attention to the ambitions and desires that compel us to division, argument, and even violence. The key to breaking this cycle, according to James, lies in turning to God. "You do not have because you do not ask God." We must turn our attention, even when we're angry, to Him. He is the way.

Finally, we explored the hope that we have in Jesus, a hope that serves as an anchor for our souls, firm and secure. While political promises may falter, the promises of God are steadfast and everlasting.

With these truths in mind, I invite you to examine your own heart and life. Where have you placed your hope? Is it in the fleeting promises of political leaders, in the outcomes of elections, or in the shifting circumstances of our world? Or is your hope anchored in the unchanging character of Jesus Christ, the One who reigns eternally and whose kingdom will never end?

Today, I encourage you to commit afresh to following the way of the Lamb, to placing your trust fully in Jesus, and to living as faithful citizens of His kingdom. Let us together renew our devotion to Him, the One who offers us a hope that will never fail, and a peace that surpasses all understanding. As we do, may our lives be a reflection of His love, His humility, and His enduring promises, bringing glory to God and hope to the world around us.

Let's pray together.