



Our Allegiance to Jesus

October 4th, 2026

1. LEAN IN

We live in a world where news, politics, social media, and cultural conversations can easily shape our emotions and priorities.

When you think about the world around you right now, what is one thing that most easily causes you to feel anxious, angry, discouraged, or afraid? Why do you think it affects you that way?

2. LOOK UP — Ephesians 1:15–23

Read **Ephesians 1:15–23** together. As you read, pay attention to what Paul prays the believers will see and *know* about Jesus.

OBSERVATION — What does the text say?

- What do you notice and what are you curious about?
- What does Paul pray that the believers would know? (vv. 17–19)
- What does Paul say about the power of God? (vv. 19–20)
- Where does Paul say Jesus is positioned in relation to every other “rule and authority, power and dominion”? (vv. 20–21)
- **Why do you think Paul focuses on changing the “eyes of their hearts” rather than asking God to immediately change their circumstances?**

INTERPRETATION — What does the passage mean?

- What do you learn about God?
- What do you learn about humanity?
- What does this passage teach us about Jesus’ authority?

- If Jesus is “far above” every earthly authority, what does that tell us about the place governments, political leaders, institutions, and cultural movements should have in our lives?
- What is the difference between caring deeply about something and making that thing ultimate?

APPLICATION — What’s my response?

- How are you encouraged, challenged, or convicted by this passage?
- What should be our response to this passage?
- **What has been carrying more emotional or spiritual weight in your life than it was ever meant to carry?**
- **What would it look like this week to actually live as though Jesus is King?**

SCRIPTURE

- **Ephesians 1:15–23** — Jesus is exalted above every rule and authority.
- **Philippians 2:5–11** — Jesus conquers through humility and sacrificial love.
- **Matthew 6:10, 33** — Seek God's Kingdom and pray for His will to be done.
- **John 18:36–37** — Jesus explains the nature of His Kingdom.
- **Isaiah 9:6–7** — The promised King whose government and peace will never end.
- **Daniel 7:13–14** — The Son of Man receives an everlasting Kingdom.
- **Psalms 145:8–14** — God's everlasting Kingdom and faithful reign.

PRAYER

Use these prompts to pray together:

Open our eyes.

“God, enlighten the eyes of our hearts. Help us see Jesus clearly and see our circumstances through the reality that He is King.”

Reorder our allegiance.

“Jesus, show us anything that has become more ultimate in our lives than You. Help us care about good things without making them god-things.”

Replace fear with trust.

Bring one fear or concern before Jesus and pray:

“Jesus, You reign over this situation even when I cannot control it.”

Make us faithful ambassadors.

“Jesus, help us represent You well—in our homes, workplaces, schools, friendships, communities, and conversations. Give us wisdom to speak truth, humility to listen, courage to pursue justice, and love for people who disagree with us.”

Give us Kingdom hope.

Thank Jesus that leaders change, circumstances change, cultures change, but **Jesus remains. Jesus reigns.**

3. PRACTICE — STEP OUT**Identify Your Allegiance**

Take 10 minutes this week to honestly ask:

What currently has the greatest influence over my decisions, emotions, and priorities?

Practice Kingdom Perspective

When you encounter a troubling headline, political disagreement, or cultural issue this week, pause before reacting.

Pray: **“Jesus, You are King. This matters, but it is not ultimate. Help me respond as Your ambassador.”**

Live Like an Ambassador

Choose one person this week who sees the world differently than you do. Rather than trying to win an argument, practice listening, serving, encouraging, or praying for them.

The goal isn't to become the loudest person in the room. The goal is to become the clearest representative of the King.