

Key Takeaways

- 1.) God is the ultimate king and reigns over all creation.
- 2.) We are called to surrender to God's authority rather than seeking independence.
- 3.) God remains in control even during times of pressure and difficulty.
- 4.) We are to love people while hating evil.
- 5.) Jesus is returning, and we need to be prepared.

Discussion Questions

- 1.) The sermon mentions how difficult it can be for Americans to understand absolute authority. How do you think our cultural context affects our view of God's sovereignty?
- 2.) Reflect on a time when you tried to negotiate with God or wanted to change His standards. What was the outcome?
- 3.) How can we as a church demonstrate conviction without compromising, especially in a world that's constantly changing?
- 4.) PZ emphasizes that God reigns "under pressure." Can you share an experience where you felt God's control during a difficult time in your life?
- 5.) How can we balance hating evil while still loving people, especially those who may be living in sin?
- 6.) The sermon warns against portraying God as desperate for our affection. How do you think we should view God's love for us in a healthy, biblical way?
- 7.) What are some practical ways we can prepare ourselves for Christ's return?

Practical Applications

- 1.) This week, identify an area in your life where you're struggling to surrender control. Commit to praying daily about this, asking God to reign in that area.
- 2.) Choose one current event or societal issue that troubles you. Instead of engaging in online debates or becoming discouraged, spend time praising God for His sovereignty over the situation.
- 3.) Reflect on your interactions with non-believers. Are you shining the light of Jesus or passing judgment? Make a conscious effort to lead with love in your next encounter.
- 4.) Set aside time for self-examination. Ask yourself, "If Jesus returned today, would I be ashamed of how I've lived?" Use this reflection to make any necessary changes in your life.
- 5.) As a group, discuss ways you can support each other in living lives that value what God values. Consider setting up accountability partnerships within the group.