

DAY 11. — OUR NATION

“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no benefit to you.”

HEBREWS 13:17

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

Those who God has called into leadership carry a heavy burden of high responsibility. Some of us understand that burden, but many of us do not. One thing each of us can do a little bit better is bring empathy to the table for our leaders. We may not always agree with a decision or position that our leaders take, and in those moments, what if our response was prayer? It's easy to complain; it's easy to believe the worst and make someone out to be a monster. But God has called us higher. We are to fight the urge to dehumanize those around us, including our nation's leaders. The Christian standard rises above the American standard. Will we walk in it?

PRAYER:

Father, help me to see the human behind every political leader. Fill my heart with the same compassion and love for them as you feel. Teach me to pray when I feel disappointed, frustrated, and let down by political leaders. Protect me from sinning when I disagree or do not like someone in a position of power. Teach me also to remain humble when I am glad about a political decision. The way that I treat other people and the way that I talk about my leaders cannot be dependent on how I am feeling. God, I pray for America's leaders. Lead them to know you and follow you. Through their leadership, I pray that America cares even more for the orphan and widow, the oppressed and marginalized, and the salvation of all. I pray America looks more like Jesus.