

Hi Pastor Lance.

I came to church the last two Sundays when you were on vacation. Some were surprised to see me. I do sometimes join in online. Today I was going to come, but when I woke up and looked out the window there was four inches of wet snow. I thought I'd just join in online and maybe come this evening for prayer summit after the plows had cleared the roads more.

This morning in church you said: "So if your heart is burdened with what is happening in our land right now I want to encourage you to come" to tonight's prayer meeting. And also that: "we're actually going to be coming together in a time of corporate prayer where we'll be praying primarily for our country; we're going to be praying for healing, for wisdom, for protection, for courage."

I would feel more welcome to come tonight if we were going to be praying for our country for healing, yes, but also for love, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Gal 5:22-23).

As you continued speaking you referenced integrity as "standing firm." Joseph and you did this. I think, however, the analogy is misdirected toward the "young Davids" and toward Charlie Kirk. It is very clear that Charlie Kirk stood firm against sexual sin and perversion in our country. Yet, Jesus suggested to the religious leaders, who stood firm against a sinful woman, that any of them that is without sin could cast the first stone. Those religious leaders gave an example that I would hope we could follow as a church and not condemn others as Charlie Kirk and the Christian Nationalist are doing. Those religious leaders acknowledged that they were not better than the woman and they left. They explicitly did not stand firm. In so doing they clearly showed their integrity – understanding that their sins disqualified them from condemning other sinners. Further, comparing sin with national laws further confuses. How much less condemnation should there be for unlawful immigrants since that unlawfulness is merely a worldly law and God's word says to welcome such as those.

Would I be welcome to come tonight and pray for these things?

The following is a transcript of Pastor Lance's introduction to his sermon today, October 12, 2025

Take a moment to acknowledge something that happened while I was away on vacation. I caught the news overseas of the assassination of Charlie Kirk. ... realized it was truth, I wept.

A God fearing man, husband, father of two, taken from this world in an act of really demonic hatred. This was just not an attack on man, but it was an attack on truth, on freedom, on righteousness; and as followers of Jesus, we'll not answer evil with evil, but we'll stand in integrity. We'll stand in courage and love; and we know that wounds like this cut deep in our nation's soul.

So tonight we are pivoting in prayer summit, and we're actually going to be coming together in a time of corporate prayer where we'll be praying primarily for our country; we're going to be praying for healing, for wisdom, for protection, for courage. So if your heart is burdened with what is happening in our land right now I want to encourage you to come.

We're going to start off with dinner together....

Then we're going to get together and pray. We're going to lift up this great nation, that we all deeply love, in prayer and in intercession. But right now, as a corporate body, as a family, can we take a moment and open up this service in prayer.

Heavenly father....

2 Chronicles 7:14 "If my people will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, I will forgive their sins, and I will heal their land."

Lord, we know your word is truth. So we humble ourselves and ask for mercy on our nation. Lord, heal the hatred, lord restore the unity. Protect our leaders. Protect the young Davids, like Charlie Kirk, Lord, who stand firm against the darkness. Pour out your spirit all across America once again. Lord, may revival begin in us, may it begin in our hearts, in our homes, in this church Lord. In Jesus name we ask it. Amen. Amen.

That really is the heart of today's message. It is integrity in the dark. The kind of integrity that stands firm when no one else will. But also the kind of integrity when no one is looking....

(Then Pastor Lance starts the sermon with the story of his truck, door dings, no notes, his bumping someone's car mirror, and him leaving a note – that is integrity.)