Church and State

16 But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the Lord his God, and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense. 17 Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the Lord followed him in. 18 They confronted King Uzziah and said, 'It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary. for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honoured by the Lord God.' 19 Uzziah, who had a censer in his hand ready to burn incense, became angry. While he was raging at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the Lord's temple, leprosy broke out on his forehead. 20 When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, he himself was eager to leave, because the

Lord had afflicted him.

21 King Uzziah had leprosy until

the day he died. He lived in a separate house – leprous, and

excluded from the temple of

the Lord. (2 Chron.26:16-21)

It is not right for the world to rule in my
Do not fall into ungodly
Do not fall into ungodly
It is not right for the world to rule in God's
God's people need
God's people are
It is not right for the world to in God's temple "If the world hates you" John 15:18-19
God's people what the world can't "depth of insight" Philippians 1:9-10
God's people what the world can't "I can through Christ" Phil.4:13

My prayer priorities for the week beginning 13 October 2019

Today's worship through music

Worthy of all praise | The power and the glory of Your name | Everything that has breath | The greatness of our God (band item) | How great Thou art | You can trust Him | God exalted Him to the highest place | Shine Jesus shine

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

- 1. List 3 advantages, and 3 problems, that may arise if the church could impose its agenda on the government.
- 2. List 3 advantages, and 3 problems, that may arise if the government could impose its agenda on the church.
- 3. What lessons should we learn from Aaron, the priest, and Moses, the law-giver, being brothers?
- 4. Read 2 Chronicles 26:16. How did the problems start, and how did they unfold? Do problems always begin with attitude?
- 5. Read 2 Chronicles 26:17-18. Identify each of the wise problem-solving steps that were taken. Which of these are relevant today?
- 6. How many problem-solving steps can you find in Colossians 3:15-16?
- 7. How successful was the problem-solving (v19)? What comfort can we take from the final outcome (v19-21)?

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