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**Dear heavenly Father, we worship You this morning with our tithe and offerings. We pray for the courage to put You first in our lives. In the name of Jesus, amen.**

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**JULY 10, 2021**

## **When John Huss put God First**

John Huss lost his life when he put God first. What can we learn from John Huss today that will help us put God first in our own lives?

In the 14th century, the Roman Catholic Church sold indulgences to families who wanted a guarantee that their loved ones were in heaven rather than burning forever in hell. Persecution was certain for anyone who challenged the authority of the church and especially the Pope. The Papacy had become the apocalyptic beast depicted in the Bible.

During this dark period of human history, John Huss was a preacher in Prague, in the Czech Republic. He spoke openly against the lies and defended the truth as found in God's word. Even in exile, he continued to put God first.

When the Council of Constance assembled, Huss was asked to be there and present his views. When he arrived, he was immediately arrested and put in prison. He was eventually taken in front of the council and asked to recant his views. He replied, "I would not for a chapel of gold retreat from the truth!" When he refused, he was put back in prison. On July 6, 1415, he was burned at the stake for heresy against the doctrines of the Catholic Church. As he was burning, he could be heard

singing Psalms.

There are many ways in which the truth has been ignored and rejected today. We are constantly challenged to compromise our beliefs in small and large ways. God continues to invite us to have a commitment to the truth, come what may. Sometimes this commitment will lead to persecution and death. For most of us, it might simply represent an inconvenience. However, we must have the courage from the Holy Spirit to put God first no matter what.

We are blessed with the stories of men and women who sacrificed their earthly comfort for the mission given to the church by Jesus. The good news of salvation might not have reached us if it wasn't for their courage and determination. Now it is our turn to put God first and fulfill this mission.

*John Huss put God first, even when it cost him everything. His courage inspires us today. Jesus gave up everything to redeem us and His love compels us to put His kingdom first in our own lives. As the deacons collect the tithe and offerings, we are challenged to put God first.*