

Certainty... in a world of doubt

The Gospel of Luke

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, December 2/3, 2017 Ray Davis

“Jesus & Politics” Luke 23:1-25

Why are politics such a hot topic? Is it possible to take politics too seriously? What is the relationship between church and state? What are Jesus' politics? As a follower of Christ what should be my politics? In our text, Jesus gives us a Paradoxical, Powerful and Personal answer to politics.

WHAT ARE JESUS' POLITICS?

PARADOXICAL ANSWER (ACTIONS): v3 And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.”

- **Politics are important but not the most important.**
Luke20:22-25 Honorable accountability
- **Don't disobey civil government except, of course, when they compel us to disobey God's Word (Acts 5:29). We are to subject ourselves to it (Rom13:1-7; Titus 3:1-2; 1Pet2:13-17) and pray for rulers and authorities so that we might live a peaceful life (1Tim2:1-2). The role and purpose of government: Order, Justice, Virtue, and Prosperity.**
- **It is an act of “loving our neighbor” (Matt. 22:39) to vote for Politicians and laws that promote Biblical values. Avoid partisan politics and stand up for the truth but do it with gentleness and respect (Dan 2:14; Acts 26; Titus 3:1-2; Col4:5-6; 1Pet2:17, 3:15).**

POWERFUL ANSWER (ATTITUDE): vv9-11 So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. (Mark 15:3-4)

- **The Gospel gives us the capacity to have personal peace in the face of persecution and exercise our power (status/money/influence) to love and forgive our enemies.**
Rom12:14-21

- **Our aim must be more than a better society for all but to faithfully and contagiously use our power (status/money/influence) for the proclamation and demonstration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the transformation of people's lives.** (Rom1:16; Matt5:13-16)

PERSONAL ANSWER (TRANSFORMATION): v25 He released the man (Barabbas) who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will (to be crucified). This is a beautiful picture of the doctrine of Substitutionary Atonement, a frequent theme of scripture: (Isa53:6; John1:29; Rom3:25; 1Cor15:3; 2 Cor5:21; Heb2:17, 9:28; 1Pet2:24; 1John2:1-2, 4:10)

- **The essence of sin is me (Barabbas) substituting myself for God.**
- **The essence of salvation is God (Jesus) substituting Himself for me.**
- **Jesus gave His life for me, so I'll give my life for you.**

Growing Notes

- 1) Why are politics such a hot topic? Is it possible to take politics too seriously? On a scale from one to ten, where are you in politics: (unengaged)-1-2-3-4-(engaged)-5-6-7-8-9-(outraged)-10? What role should the gospel play in our politics?
- 2) Read Luke 23:1-25. What stands out to you from this text? Review Jesus' Paradoxical Answer to politics along with Bible verses. What should our political actions be? How do you know when politics is too important to you?
- 3) Review Jesus' Powerful Answer to politics and Bible verses. How does this one help us with our attitude toward politics? Why do you think the 1st Century turned their culture upside down (Acts17:6; Rom1:16, 12:14-21; Matt5:13-16)?
- 4) Review Jesus' Personal Answer to politics and Bible verses. What is the doctrine of Substitutionary Atonement and how does it transform our political actions and attitude? What is God speaking to you from this study? Pray that db continues to be a place where people are transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ!