

How Would Jesus Vote?
"Being a good citizen... of the Kingdom"
10/25-26/2008

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
Matthew chapter 6, verse 33 (NIV)

- Jesus talked about his kingdom a lot, the only other subject he mentioned more was money.
- "Kingdom": a place and time in the future when Jesus will rule the entire world with only his followers.
- "Kingdom": the reality that Jesus is my King now and I am in the process of making the priorities of his kingdom mine.

What are some of Jesus Kingdom priorities for me?

THE PRIORITY OF KNOWING JESUS.

"Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But for everyone who denies me here on earth, I will deny that person before my Father in heaven. Matthew chapter 10, verse 32-33 (741)

- This does not mean Jesus will deny me if I don't stand up for him.
- Jesus is my advocate in heaven praying and pleading for me (Hebrews 7)
- When I don't stand up for Jesus I miss out on God's blessings...the eternal rewards, the crowns etc...
- My responsibility is to acknowledge Jesus in every area of my life.
- The privilege is that the Jesus will always acknowledge me.
- Jesus wants me to be passionate about inviting others to experience both of these.

And I, the Son of Man, came to seek and save those who are lost. "

Luke chapter 19, verse 10 (801)

- ❖ Lost people are at the center of Jesus' mission.
- ❖ We were all lost at one time.
- ❖ Do I pursue spiritual discussions with people like I pursue political discussions?
- ❖ Do I have eyes for the lost?

When he saw the crowds he had great compassion on them, because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew chapter 9, verse 36 (737)

We believe that lost people matter to God, and they therefore ought to matter to us.
Bethel Value #2

THE PRIORITY OF LOVING JESUS.

"Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace but a sword. I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. Your enemies will be right in your own household!

Matthew chapter 10, verses 34-36 (741)

- A passion for Christ may bring personal sacrifice.
- There will be tense and even severed relationships in your life if you love Jesus.
- Jesus promises personal peace now, global peace later.
- *Don't trust anyone-not your best friend or even your wife! For the son despises his father. The daughter defies her mother. The daughter-in-law defies her mother-in-law. Your enemies will be right in your own household.* Micah chapter 7, verses 5-6 (707)

If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine.

Matthew chapter 10, verses 37 (741)

Evidence of my love for Jesus.

- ✓ Time: Prayer, Bible reading, worship etc...
- ✓ Obedience: "If you love me, obey my commandments.
- ✓ Serving: Jesus said, "Feed my sheep"
- ✓ Giving: *"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where they can be eaten by moths and get rusty, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where they will never become moth-eaten or rusty and where they will be safe from thieves.*

Matthew chapter 6, verses 19 & 20. (737)

Q. Which of these does Jesus compete with for your attention?

Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew chapter 22, verses 37-39 (753)

THE PRIORITY OF LETTING GO.

If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

Matthew chapter 10, verses 38-39 (741)

- "take up your cross" - this means submitting your life to Christ.
- Submission*: to be humble compliant and under the control of another.
- This is a life long process.
- The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.* John chapter 10, verse 10 (819)
- We believe that the pursuit of full devotion to Christ and His cause is normal for every believer. This includes the concepts of stewardship, servant-hood, and the pursuit of Kingdom goals- Bethel Value # 8
 - In the 60's the goal was to "Find Yourself" - but we didn't like what we found.
 - In the 70's the goal was to "Improve yourself" - still not good enough
 - In the 80's the goal was to "Serve Yourself" - more stuff but less fulfilled
 - In the 90's the goal was to "Express Yourself" - no-one liked what they saw
 - For 2000 years Jesus has been saying, "Die to Self" - works every time!

Next Week- *The Kind of Leader America Needs.*