

How would Jesus Vote?

Where do I put my hope??

September 20 & 21, 2008

Some lessons from “King Jesus”...

- God & Jesus didn't rely on the political system to change the world
- The political system hated Jesus, made him a criminal & killed him
- The Bible never tells me to change the world through the political system
- Jesus lived as a citizen of heaven who was just passing through earth
- When the laws of earth clashed with the laws of heaven, Jesus always lived out the laws of heaven. Always.

What are the laws of heaven? In heaven, blessed are the poor, those who mourn, the humble, those who work for justice, the merciful, those with pure hearts, those who work for peace, those who don't store up their treasure on earth, those who don't judge others, those who don't do their good deeds for public consumption, those who walk the additional mile, those that love their enemies, those that give to those who ask ~ *Jesus teaching in Matthew chapters 5, 6 & 7*

⊗ **How can we call Jesus Lord & Savior and the Son of God...then say that He doesn't understand what it takes to live in the world today??**

Hope

- *Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in You. Psalm 39 verse 7 (431)*
- *Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise Him again, my Savior and my God! Psalm 42 verse 11 (433)*

God blesses those who are poor (in spirit) and realize their need for Him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. Matthew chapter 5 verse 3 (736)

- Jesus here is referring to those who are humbled, broken, afflicted, oppressed, miserable, needy & more.
- He is referring to both physical & spiritual brokenness
- Heaven IS already yours!! In some way, Jesus allows His followers to experience the peace & joy of heaven now
- Heaven will be filled with these kinds of people

God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew chapter 5 verse 4 (736)

- Refers to those who mourn for the death & sorrow & the steady, habitual sins of others

God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.

Matthew chapter 5 verse 5 (736)

- “humble” = quiet, mild, gentle, they that hold all their passions and affections evenly balanced

God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.

Matthew chapter 5 verse 6 (736)

- have hunger pangs, crave water
- justice is “right-ness”
- God blesses those who long for the world to work the way God designed it to work

God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Matthew chapter 5 verse 7 (736)

- merciful = tender - hearted, those who love all people as they love themselves
- those who, instead of resenting injury, are ready to forgive
- ☒ How does the speech of those in the political realm, talk-radio match-up with this?

God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

Matthew chapter 5 verse 8 (736)

- ***Jesus said, “It’s not what goes into your body that defiles you; you are defiled by what comes from your heart.”*** *Mark chapter 7 verse 15 (767)*
- That’s why Jesus spent his time working to transform people’s hearts, not trying to pass laws that would control people’s actions
- ***Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*** *2 Corinthians chapter 5 verse 17 (884)*

God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

Matthew chapter 5 verse 9 (736)

- Not just those who keep the peace
- Refers to those who bring peace & make peace where peace does not exist

God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Matthew chapter 5 verse 10 (736)

- persecuted = prolonged & ongoing suffering because of your love for Jesus & your desire to live out His teachings
- ***Jesus said, “What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man. When that happens, be happy! Yes, leap for joy! For a great reward awaits you in heaven.”***

Luke chapter 6 verses 22 & 23 (786)

Jesus said, “Everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for My sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life. But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.”

Matthew chapter 19 verses 29 & 30 (750)

Next week: Our study “How would Jesus Vote?” continues with a look at the topic “Change”

Material for this talk & study taken from Jesus for President, written by Shane Claiborne & Chris Haw. Shane will be speaking at Bethel on October 4 & 5, 2008