

Believers Approach Politics Differently

Promise: following the crucified and risen one results in eternal life

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Ge 17:1-7, 15-16; Ps 22:22-30; Ro 5:1-11; [Mark 8:27-38](#)

(Second Sunday in Lent, 2/28/21)

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." – v. 34b

Lead In – Believers approach politics differently! You may be asking, what does that have to do with Jesus' foretelling his upcoming suffering and death on the Cross, or what does it have to do with our following Jesus? Well, I hope you will soon see why I think it has everything to do with it. The temptation of our flesh (our sinful nature) is to approach politics, and everything else, no differently than the world...

I. Three Important Differences

- Knowing why we won't perfect things in this age...
- Knowing why politics is important, but penultimate...
- Knowing why honor and obedience is the default...

II. What Does Any of This Have to Do with the Lesson?

- It is all about who Jesus is...
- It is all about how Jesus conquers and rules...
- It is all about what Jesus promises...

III. The Implications For Our Lives

- Living according to our ultimate hope...
- Participating in our Lord's suffering...
- Recognizing the world that we live in...

Parting Shot – I hope you recognize that I am less interested in challenging us in how we should think about politics. There's room for a lot of disagreement. But our approach and understanding is something believers can share in. And it is different than the world! What I am really interested in is that we hear the call to discipleship by our crucified and risen Lord, that we know that is a difficult path, but that we also trust how rewarding the path is. The fact that Jesus rose three days after His death is the anchor of this hope. And it changes how we live life.

Ro 3:10-12 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

Mt 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Two Kingdom: God's rule over all, and his left and right handed rule.

Mt 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.

Ro 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Ps 146:3-4 Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

Mark 8:27-38 ESV

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

²⁷And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." ²⁹And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." ³⁰And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

³¹And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

³⁴And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? ³⁷For what can a man give in return for his life? ³⁸For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Lk 18:29-30 And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."

C1 1:24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church.

Ph 3:8, 10-11 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

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