

# Jesus, His Followers, & Politics

## Was Jesus “Political”?

World Outreach Church  
Sermon Discussion Guide  
Sunday Sermon: **October 22, 2023**



We need to understand the Church’s role in the earth. Are we meant to discuss and engage in current events? Was Jesus “political”? Your answer depends on how you define *political*. In most seminary schools, future pastors are taught this fundamental principle of biblical interpretation: “A text without a context is a pretext.” That means you need to understand the biblical text, in the context in which it was written, to understand its implications for us. That’s a sound principle. But something seldomly discussed is a truth derived from that principle: **A text without application to our current context is just a theory.** If it’s important to understand the context in which the scripture was written, it’s equally important to know how that truth applies to our world today—or it remains just a theological theory.

Folks, we cannot afford a theoretical faith—theoretical forgiveness, a theoretical Heaven, theoretical healing, or theoretical deliverance. We need to *know* we are forgiven, righteous, justified, and sanctified in God’s sight. Theoretical faith is not faith! Truthfully, if we fail to apply our faith to the world in which we live, we are only theoretical Christians, and we need to begin to practice what we profess to believe.

Matthew 24:35 *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*

Genesis 13:14–17 <sup>14</sup> *The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, “Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. <sup>15</sup> **All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.** <sup>16</sup> I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. <sup>17</sup> Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.”*

Zechariah 12:2–3 <sup>2</sup> *“I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves.”*

**1. What’s the difference between a theoretical faith and a faith that transforms your life and the lives of those around you?**

### I. JESUS WAS NOT POLITICAL?!?

Acts 1:6–7 <sup>6</sup> *So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.”*

Matthew 22:18–21 <sup>18</sup> *But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, <sup>20</sup> and he asked them, “Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?” <sup>21</sup> “Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said to them, **“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”***

Matthew 17:24–27 <sup>24</sup> *After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, “Doesn’t your teacher pay the temple tax?” <sup>25</sup> “Yes, he does,” he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. “What do you think, Simon?” he asked. “From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own sons or from others?” <sup>26</sup> “From others,” Peter answered. “Then the sons are exempt,” Jesus said to him. <sup>27</sup> “But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.”*

**2. How can you best respond to someone calling you “political” when you are standing for a biblical worldview?**

**3. What idols do you see our current culture worshipping? How can you encourage others to stand for biblical truths?**

### II. DIFFERENT TIMES, DIFFERENT OUTCOMES

#### A. Message of Hope and Deliverance

Isaiah 37:33–35 <sup>33</sup> *“Therefore this is what the Lord says concerning the king of Assyria: “He will not enter this city or shoot an arrow here. He will not come before it with shield or build a siege ramp against it. <sup>34</sup> By the*

way that he came he will return; he will not enter this city,” declares the Lord. <sup>35</sup> “I will defend this city and save it, for my sake and for the sake of David my servant!”

#### B. Message of Impending Doom (Judgment)

Jeremiah 32:26–29 <sup>26</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: <sup>27</sup> “I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me? <sup>28</sup> Therefore, this is what the Lord says: I am about to hand this city over to the Babylonians and to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who will capture it. <sup>29</sup> The Babylonians who are attacking this city will come in and set it on fire; they will burn it down, along with the houses where the people provoked me to anger by burning incense on the roofs to Baal and by pouring out drink offerings to other gods.”

#### 4. What is something you are proud of accomplishing? What kind of legacy of faith do you want to leave for the next generation?

### III. JESUS PROPHETIC ANNOUNCEMENT RE: JERUSALEM

Luke 19:41–44 <sup>41</sup> As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it <sup>42</sup> and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup> **The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side.** <sup>44</sup> They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

Luke 21:20–24 <sup>20</sup> **“When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near.** <sup>21</sup> Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. <sup>22</sup> For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. <sup>23</sup> How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. <sup>24</sup> They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”

Acts 1:6–7 <sup>6</sup> So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.”

#### Message for Jewish Leaders

Matthew 21:43–46 <sup>43</sup> “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. <sup>44</sup> He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.” <sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. <sup>46</sup> They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

#### 5. Describe a time when you took the blessings of God for granted. What was the outcome? How did it impact your faith?

#### 6. Pastor Allen said, “Our problem today is the heart of God’s people!” Has God shown you anything in your own heart that needs to change? If so, how did He reveal it to you? If not, are you willing to ask Him to examine your heart, and then respond to His leading?

### PRAYER

Now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of darkness with a mighty hand and who made for Yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. O Lord, in keeping with all Your righteous acts, turn away Your anger and Your wrath from our cities and our land. Our sins and the inequities of our fathers have made us an object of scorn to all those around us. Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of Your servants. For Your sake, O Lord, look with favor on Your desolate sanctuary. Give ear, O God, and hear; open Your eyes and see the desolation of this generation. We do not make requests of You because we are righteous, but because of Your great mercy. O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For Your sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people bear Your Name. Amen. (adapted from Daniel 9:15–19, NIV)