

Kingdom Politics: Priorities

“Do Justice”

Quick Recap:

“What is a Christian’s responsibility in politics...how are we supposed to walk this out?”

Allegiance

Priorities

Methods

**“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...
for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

Matthew 6:19, 21

Priorities

I’ve been praying without ceasing...fighting heaviness, and borderline depression over the disrespect, division and hatefulness in our country. I said to the Lord:

“I feel overwhelmed with the question, ‘What should I do?’ The problems of the world seem so complex, layered, and insurmountable. The sorrow compounds every day. I am confused by the sheer volume of problems we’re dealing with on personal, churchwide, national, and global levels ‘What would you have me do?’ ‘What would you have us do?’ ‘How do we fight such reckless hate?’”

He reminded me in a calm and reassuring way...a way that showed me that He is not rattled or anxious about the threatening state of affairs...He said:

“What do I require of you? Do Justice, Love Kindness, and walk Humbly with Me.”

This is the mantra of the Citizens of the Kingdom of God...

Micah 6:6-8

**With what shall I come to the Lord
And bow myself before the God on high?
Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings,
With yearling calves?
Does the Lord take delight in thousands of rams,
In ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I present my firstborn for my rebellious acts,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has told you, O man, what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But to **do justice**, to **love kindness**,
And to **walk humbly with your God?****

“Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief.

Do Justly, Now. Love Kindness, Now. Walk Humbly, Now.

You are not obligated to complete the work. But neither are you free to abandon it.”

Do Justice

- **Matthew 5:3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
 - Blessed are the broken, the hurting, the marginalized, the oppressed....because there is a King who cares about them, and Kingdom Officials who work for them in justice...

The Good Samaritan is the Epitome of One Who Lived by Kingdom Priorities

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “**Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?**” ²⁶ Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?” ²⁷ The man answered, “**You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’**” ²⁸ “**Right!**” Jesus told him. “**Do this and you will live!**” ²⁹ The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. ³¹ “By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. ³² A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. ³³ “Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. ³⁴ Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’ ³⁶ “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked. ³⁷ The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

- **The Religious “Saw,” and “Looked at” But Did Nothing.**
 - Even in Jesus’ day this Characterized the Religiously Comfortable
 - Some of you have said to me – “*Why must we make everything about race...why can’t we just talk about justice and righteousness?*”

1 John 3:16-18

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world’s goods, and **sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?** Little children, **let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.**

- **Good Samaritan: A Citizen of God’s Kingdom; Operating by Kingdom Priorities**
 - Was a victim of human politics (“*a despised Samaritan*”)
 - Had every human reason not to stop
 - Allowed for Major Interruption & Inconvenience
 - Action: Stopped, Helped, and Followed Up
 - Financial Commitment

JUSTICE DOES!

Proverbs 31:8-9

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; **ensure justice** for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and **see that they get justice.**

Isaiah 1:17

“Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, and plead the widow's cause,”

Jeremiah 22:3

This is what the Lord says: **Be fair-minded** and just. **Do what is right! Help** those who have been robbed; **rescue them from their oppressors.** Quit your evil deeds! Do not mistreat foreigners, orphans, and widows. Stop murdering the innocent!

Why? “Because He laid down his life for us...”

He **speaks up** for us
He **ensures that we will get justice**
He **learned** what it was like to walk in our shoes
He **corrects oppression**
He **brings justice**
He **pleads our case**
He helps and **rescues us from our oppressors**

“So, we ought to lay down our lives” for others...