

Sermon Outline
Sermon Text: Hebrews 12:12a
Sermon Title: Follow Jesus

Introduction

1. Sadly since 2012 more specifically 2016 many people including Christians have been seduced to believe more in politics and the ways of this world rather than our Lord and Savior Jesus. This week government shutdown we are getting taste of how politics can let you down and can be unreliable.

2. Bible says the public service and government is a noble and a vital vocation, and politics is a noble profession. But the Kingdom of Politics should never compete with the Kingdom of God for allegiance.

Hebrews 12:2a *“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the **pioneer** and perfecter(finisher) of faith...”* (NIV)

What does the World say is important and What does the Word of God say is important?

1. The World says politics is the driving force in everything.

a. If you get around the world for any length of time they're going to talk about politics as if it's the most important thing in life.

1. And for some people who don't depend on God for their lives, or they don't know God, or don't depend on God as their highest power then their highest power becomes government. For them there is nothing higher or there's nobody else to appeal to because **God is not there.**

2. And when they see problems in the world since they don't naturally turn to God, they don't pray about those problems instead they naturally turn to government. They **look to the government** to be **the solution for everything** because if you don't have God where do you go? Because it is the highest power.

Now how does that contrast with the **biblical view or the Word of God.**

2. The world says politics is all that matters. But **Jesus says my Church matters more than anything else.** Jesus say politics isn't the most important thing on this planet my church is the most important thing on this planet. Politics is not going to last. The Church is going to last forever.

a. some scriptures where Jesus says the most important thing on earth is the church!
Ephesians 3:10a *“God's intent was that **through the church** his manifold wisdom will be made known...”* (NIV) The church is the way we know about God, the way we know His will and the way we know what to do.

b. Ephesians 1:22 *“God has put all things [that's including politics] under the authority of Christ [that includes the economy, the weather, everything under Christ] and has made Christ head over all things [notice this line] for the **benefit of the church.**”* (NLT)

c. Matthew 16:18b Jesus promises: *“And I tell you are Peter, I will build my church and the gates of hell will not overcome it!”* (NIV) Jesus didn't say I will **build my nation.** He never said I will **build my ministry.** He said I will build **my church,** and the gates of hell will not overcome it because it's the only thing that's going to go into eternity. It is what Jesus is doing in the world right

now. He's building His church. That's what God's been doing for 2000 years, building His church bringing more in his family. God wanted a family and that's why he created the entire universe.

d. Ephesians 5:25b-27 “²⁵.....Christ also loved the church and gave Himself(He died) for her(Church), ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her (Church) with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her(Church) to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she(Church) should be holy and without blemish.” (NKJV) Christ loves the church and anything He loves we ought to love to He loves it more than anything else. It's His family. It's His children. It is those who place their trust in him as their Savior who is going to spend eternity with Him. You want to know how much the church is worth, look at the cross. Christ died for the church. If we're going to be effective as believers in this world, we must love the church as much as Jesus loves the church. The sad thing today is a lot of people use the church but **don't love it**. They use it. They enjoy it. They benefit from it. They don't love it. If you are going to be a true follower of Christ, you got to learn to love the church like Jesus did. He sacrificed for the church. He gave His life for the church. He gave His life for you and me

e. Ephesians 1:20-23 “*All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from his rule. And not just for the time being, but forever. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral(secondary) to the world; the world is peripheral(secondary) to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.*” (Message Bible) There wouldn't be any world if God didn't want a church. There will not be a universe if there was not a church *the church is Christ body in which he speaks and acts and by which he fills everything with his presence*”

f. And from all those 5 verses Are really clear that the church is the only thing on earth that's going to last forever, and the church is more important than any **government**, any **organization**, any **business**, any **entertainment**, and any **celebrity**. All that matter is the church. It has the power to change things. If you belong to Jesus then you are the church, the body of Christ, each individual members are a part of the whole family of God. We are his offsprings. We are Christ representatives on the earth with a Heavenly mandate to carry out the great commission and great commandment (Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 22:34-40) . (

3. The world says politicians will solve all your problems and they will save the world.

a. Politicians say we're going to solve all your problems and we're going to save the world. Some Politicians says we are going to make the world **great again**. Now we all know that these promises can't all be kept and are true. The problem is when you hear something over and over and you hear it enough times, studies have shown you actually start to believe it's true even though it's untrue.

4. Jesus says I can save you and solve your worst problems. John 14:6 “⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (NIV) **There is no other way, truth or life but mines**. Only I can save you and only I can solve your worst problems.

a. He tells us that if we trust human beings instead of trusting him, we're going to be severely disappointed.

b. Psalm 146:3 “Do not put your trust in Princes, in human beings, who cannot save.” (NIV)

c. Jeremiah 17:5 God: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD.” (NIV)

d. As it relates to politicians in the words of Retired 4 Star General Milley. During his retirement speech in September 2023, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley stated, "We don't take an oath to a king or a queen or to a tyrant or a dictator, and we don't take an oath to a wannabe dictator" We as Christians know there is only one King, and His name is Jesus! No human being is a savior of the world. There is only one Savior of the World, his name isn't Confucius, Buddha, Mohammad, Elon Musk or president, His Name of Jesus. If some Christians would spend as much time praying for the problems of the world like they do praising mere human beings or princes of this world or glorifying their favorite political candidate they probably would see greater change in their life and in their city, state and nation.

5. The world says results matter more than character in leaders.

a. This is a transactional value of life and when a leader or person says that it doesn't really matter what kind of character they got as long as they are getting the job done.

b. The world says you can give up your principles, you can change or break the rules, you can lie, you can cheat, and you can demonize, you can stereotype your opposition, and all these are okay because of the ends. They believe ends justify the means.

Now in contrast to world view that results matter, and the ends justify the means, and character is not important, what is the Biblical view?

6. Jesus says the character of a leader matters the most.

a. The ends don't justify the means. It is a lie out of the pit of hell and it's certainly not biblical. God says clearly that the means are just as important as the ends. That how you do what you do and why you do what you do, or your motive is just as important as doing the right thing. In fact, you can do the right thing in the wrong way.

b. Character matters, the ends do not justify the means. God says I care about what you're becoming while you are going toward those ends. If you do the right thing in the wrong way, it's still wrong.

c. God is more interested in who you are than even what you do.

1. Ecclesiastes 10:2 "*A wise person's heart leads the right way. The heart of a fool leads the wrong way.*" (God's Word Translation). The word heart in Hebrew in this verse is not talking about your physical heart but it is talking about your inner being. It's who you really are. It's your **mind**. It is your **will**. It is your emotions. It is your personality. Anytime you see the word heart in the Bible think of the word **character**. Character does matter.

2. Isaiah 32 shows you the kind of leader that God approves and blesses. So, if you want to know **what kind of leadership qualities** God looks for go read Isaiah 32. The **first half of this passage** gives us the characteristics of a good leader. One that God blesses. If you have these qualities in your life, then you're going to be a leader that God blesses. The **second half describes the characteristics of a foolish leader**. Notice the contrast between a wise character and a person with foolish character. Jesus is the model of the **best kind of leader** and the fool is the model of the worst kind of leader. The kind that God doesn't want to bless.

d. Isaiah 32:1-8 "¹*Some day there will be a King who rules with integrity and national leaders who govern with justice* [the 1st two things we see God looks for in a leader is **integrity and justice**. then the writer of Ecclesiastes says in vs. 2 ²*Each of them [these leaders these national leaders] will be like a shelter from the wind and provide safe covering in storms...*" He is saying these leaders will

protect people, they won't **exploit them**. And then he says the next quality of a good leader still in vs.2 *They will be like streams flowing in a desert, like giant rock in a barren land.*” In other words, he says a good leader, a wise leader with character **refreshes others** They give you the **cool shadow** and **the streams of water**.” then the next quality of a good leader in vs.3 *³Their eyes and ears will be open to the needs of people*” What's he is saying is that a good leader is **empathetic**. and **sympathetic**. They open their eyes. They see people needs. They open their ears. Then he says a good leader in vs.4 *⁴They will not be impatient any longer, but they will act with understanding and they will say what they mean*” A good leader will not **be** a **reckless hothead**. Vs.1-4 tells us the kind of leader God looks for.

Then writer of Ecclesiastes contrasts the characteristics of a **foolish leader** against a good leader starting at vs. 5. *“⁵No one will think that a fool is honorable or say that a scoundrel is honest.”* Then he says a foolish leader in vs. 6 *“⁶A fool speaks foolishly”* You know a guy is a fool if he speaks foolish stuff. Out of the mouth comes your character. then look at this next line in vs.6 on what foolish leaders do *“...and thinks up evil things to do. What he does and what he says are an insult to the Lord* Then look at the next line in vs. 6 *“...He never feeds the hungry or gives thirsty people anything to drink.* Then he says in vs. 7 *⁷A stupid person is evil and does evil things; he plots to ruin the poor with lies and to keep them from getting their rights. and to keep them from getting their rights.”* He denies them justice and their rights.” then He says vs. 8 *“⁸But an honorable person acts honestly and stands firm for what is right.”* (Good News Translation) These are things that God values. These are things that God says are important to leadership.

Lastly, I encourage you to FOLLOW JESUS.

a. Hebrews 12:2a *“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter(finisher) of faith...”* (NIV)

Why Follow Jesus? He knows where He is going. And knows How to direct your life better anything or anyone especially the government.

b. Galatians 5:16-18 *¹⁶So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever^[c] you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”*

1. The word **“Led”** means to follow. It means to stay connected to Jesus. Follow his leadership. It doesn't mean you want have problems, or obstacles in your life. It means you have someone who knows how to get you through them because he knows all about your troubles, your pain, your struggles, your temptation.

2. Hebrews 4:15 *“¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.”* (NIV) No one knows what is like to be in your human body than Jesus. He can relate to you. Follow Him, He knows the way.

Now it may be that you have not **opened your life to Jesus Christ**. The world can't save you and no politician, or government can save you. but there is a Savior who will save you. He will forgive your sins. He will give you a new purpose in life. He will give you a home in heaven. He will save you from yourself. If you'll just open your heart to him. If that is your desire then pray this prayer.

Jesus Christ I want to follow you. I confess you as my Lord and Savior. I don't want to live by the way of the world, but I want to live by the way of Jesus. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and come live inside of me and fill me with your Holy Spirit.-Amen