

SERMON SERIES: 52
SPEAKER: Scott Beckenhauer
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Sermon Title:

“Was Jesus Political?”

Introduction

This week in our 52 series, we will spend time asking, “Was Jesus political?” Jesus was a man of great influence. He was a public figure, he had followers, and he had a social agenda. But when we closer examine Jesus as a political figure, we see that it looks different than when we think of political figures. Jesus’ greatest political concern was the Kingdom of God.

- What do you think of when we use the word political? How does this impact the way that you view Jesus as a political figure?

Seek the Word

- Read Matthew 21:1-10. Here we read about Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. What significance do you think this event holds in the broader context of Jesus’ ministry and the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies?
- Read Matthew 23:23. Here Jesus rebukes the religious leaders for their focus on minor matters while neglecting justice, mercy, and faithfulness. How can we apply this rebuke to our own lives? Are there areas where we might be placing undue emphasis on certain religious practices at the expense of more important matters?

Go Deeper

Looking at these passages, how do they reflect the overarching message of the entire Bible? In what ways do they illustrate the themes of Jesus’ mission, the nature of God’s kingdom, and the call to live out a life of justice, mercy, and faithfulness? How can we connect these themes to the broader narrative of God’s plan for humanity throughout the entire Bible?

Talk About It

- Where do you fall on the venn diagram of Justice, Mercy, and Faithfulness Scott mentioned on Sunday? Do you align with the Justice and Mercy of Secular Humanism? The Justice and Faithfulness of Religious activism? The Mercy and Faithfulness of Moral Irrelevance?
- Jesus emphasizes the weightier matters of justice, mercy, and faithfulness. How can we practically prioritize these values in our daily decisions and interactions, and what might be some challenges we face in doing so?

Wrap Up

Reminder: Mercy, Justice, and Faithfulness equal God’s Kingdom on earth.

Challenge: Take some time this week stretching yourself in what you are lacking to make God’s Kingdom on earth known. Pray about areas in your life that you need God’s help to grow to be more like Jesus in this matter.