

## Jesus at the Center - Gravity

Sermon: Access: Jesus at the Center: Gravity  
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*“For the Christian, this world is an arena, not an armchair.” -  
John Blanchard*

*Three things that will pull us off center: Our flesh, the world,  
the devil. We need Spiritual discernment!*

**Ephesians 2:1,2** As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

There is a coalition of forces between the world (a system) and the enemy

**Ephesians 6:12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

2 agendas - the agenda of the enemy and the greater agenda of God

**Matthew 16:18,19** And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Warnings:

**Deuteronomy 4:15,16 ESV** Therefore watch yourselves very carefully, so that you do not become corrupt and make for yourselves an idol

Wherever we make agreements with enemy, we put that above God

**2 Corinthians 2:11** in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

### Mark 8:11-16

**A Religious Spirit** is a demonic influence assigned to emphasize performance over grace, status quo religious systems over Holy Spirit freedom, and spiritual ego over humility.

A religious spirit manifests in:

- Shame, never good enough
- Performance based value
- Spiritual competition
- Empty religious practices or spiritual autonomy
- Program led over Spirit led
- Pride or comparison valuing
- Hypocrisy (Justified Sins)
- Critical spirit (listen with a critical ear rather than an open heart)
- Polished piety
- Low grace or low mercy

### Luke 18:9-14

-in this story we see the sin of pride through ‘comparison denial’

A Political Spirit is a demonic influence assigned to emphasize division over unity, power over peace, and hatred over love.

A Political Spirit manifests in:

- Refuses to admit being wrong
- Exploits people to accomplish its agenda
- A lying spirit
- Talks in confusion and twists truth
- Accuses and slanders
- Is pushy, domineering and tyrannical
- Sows seeds of discord
- Commands attention
- Is genocidal

A political culture is a suspicious, fear-driven, accusative culture, and a culture of offense

When we come into alignment with Him we become the ambassadors of His Kingdom!

**Mark 1:1-3** The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” — “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

**Mark 1:4** And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Unified unbelievers are more powerful than divided believers.

We join the world in the brokenness but as carriers of prophetic hope rather than bowing to the plans of this world

God has called us to be the waymakers for peace

## Questions

1. What is pulling you off center right now? Ask God to show you. Be specific.
2. Read Ephesians 2:1,2; 6:12 Using these scriptures, process this quote from John Blanchard “For the Christian, this world is an arena, not an armchair.”
3. How does a religious spirit want to manifest in your life most often? How do you see that right now? Where in your life do you see a political spirit?
4. John the baptist called people to a place of repentance and forgiveness. From what do you need to repent? From whom do you need to ask forgiveness?

***Prayers for the For The Kingdom Update last week. You should have received an email this last week with our most recent update!***

For The Kingdom: is about aligning ourselves with the theme and mission of Jesus. We are called to bring the values of the kingdom to intersect with the brokenness of our world.

Financial: God continues to provide an abundance of resources

Favor: Favor with the construction process with all parties involved