

“Campaigning for Christ”

Recently I have been looking at the life and teachings of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel accounts. I've have been going through the Gospel of Luke, one chapter each week and examining both the words and actions of the great teacher, Jesus, in order that someone, as his disciple, or student, can do likewise. I found it interesting recently when someone shared with me some notes which included a breakdown of some of the twelve disciples who literally followed Jesus during his ministry.

I especially liked the breakdown of Matthew the Publican and Simon the Zealot. Publicans worked for the Roman government and basically won a bidding war of who could go and collect taxes for them. As we know, most publicans were hated for most were corrupt and would not only collect what Rome demanded, but also enough to gain the money they lost in the bid and maybe a little extra off the top for "personal expenses." If they collected more than the sum that was owed to Rome, the Government was willing to look the other way. As a result, the publicans became dishonest and very wealthy.

As for the Zealots, they were a Jewish Political party which felt that GOD was the only true ruler of the Jews and thus directly attacked the Roman establishment. They even had a wing of their group whose function was very much like the terrorist organizations in the world today, attacking certain target of the government. They would work in large crowds, in order for them to blend in and also cause greater commotion among the people.

We can see that both Matthew and Simon changed profession and persuasion once being called by Jesus of Nazareth (Luke 6:16). Their change in life is evident and provides for us a good example of a disciple's walk; a change of our lives, even professionally, and politically in order to serve the new King, who's setting up to change the regimes of this world very soon.

I am a History major and have also studied politics; it is very easy for people to get caught up in these matters, especially in an election year like it is here in the United States. It shapes a person, what they think, relationships they have or don't have, what they do, how they speak, etc... Funny, I thought the Gospel of the Kingdom was to do that. ☺

One of the Democratic Presidential candidates recently made an appearance in my town and I thought it might be interesting to see him speak. It was quite a sight to see this man pumping up his supporters, calling for "victory" and "change" if the voters would elect him. This man was in a critical point of his campaign, it was one of the last times he would be speaking publicly before the time came for people to vote for a candidate. Standing in the crowd, I thought what it must have been like to hear Jesus

teach; to hear him speak about his policies, his plan for the world, and his qualifications. Would I be traveling to hear him speak if I heard he was in a nearby town? Would I have the same excitement as this crowd did to hear his plans and goals for the future?! Would I be wooed by his words, his manners, and his example? Would I be one of his supporters and work to get my friends and neighbors to go out and support him when it mattered most?

Later that night some friends and I were talking about the candidate and election and were talking about how crazy it is that even people claiming to be "Christian" candidates do not follow the truth of Bible. It is impossible for a Kingdom Gospel believer to stand with any one candidate in every issue. For example, candidate A is totally opposed to gay marriage, and candidate B isn't, so we go for A right? Well, A also is in favor of the Iraq war...oh boy! Each candidate must be looked at as a whole candidate. What an age we live in; perplexed by these thoughts, our minds instead turned to the real future of this country, and the world. The return of Jesus, GOD's anointed King.

These things teach me and I hope cause you to think on the wickedness of this age we live in, and that we need Jesus to come back and take over the world. Sections like Isaiah 11 are a comfort to us because it speaks of the Messiah's qualifications for World rulership.

"And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (v. 2-9)"

With the United States conducting an election this year, if you are one of the Ambassadors for the Kingdom living in this nation, a stranger and pilgrim, awaiting your true homeland, take this time and campaign for the one you have elected as the Lord of your heart, and tell the people that he is coming back to rule the world!