



HOW JESUS REDEEMS OUR POLITICAL DIVIDE

Week #1: It's Okay to Have a Political Lean, but Only Jesus Gets Our Bow

- Jesus was a _____.

“The Son of Man came, eating and drinking, and people say, ‘Look at him! He eats too much and drinks too much wine, and he is a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’”

Matthew 11:19 (NCV)

- Jesus’ party life messed with their _____.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰ Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners.¹¹ But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with such scum?”

¹² When Jesus heard this, he said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.”

¹³ Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

Matthew 9:9-13 (NLT)

- Jesus invited disciples to follow him who had _____ political _____.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: Simon (who is called Peter, which means “the rock”) and his brother Andrew; James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John;³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew (the tax collector); James, son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;⁴ Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot (who would betray Him).

Matthew 10:2-4 (VOICE)

- Jesus invites you to bring your _____ but submit your _____.

- Leaning is having a different _____.
- Bowing is having a different _____.

But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

Philippians 3:20 (NLT)

Discussion Questions

1. Reflecting on Jesus' interaction with Matthew, why do you think Jesus chose to associate with those who were considered outcasts or enemies by society?
2. What can we learn from Jesus' example about engaging with those who are politically or socially different from us?
3. Is there someone in your family, neighborhood, or circle of friends whom you would normally avoid due to differing beliefs? What would it look like for you to engage with them in a Christ-like manner over the next week?

Recommended Resources

- [After Party: Toward Better Christian Politics, by Curtis Chang](#) (2024)
- [The Party Crasher: How Jesus Disrupts Politics as Usual and Redeems Our Partisan Divide, by Joshua Ryan Butler](#) (2024)
- [Not in It to Win It, by Andy Stanley](#) (2022)
- [Jesus Outside the Lines, by Scott Sauls](#) (2015)

(NCV) New Century Version

(NLT) New Living Translation

(VOICE) The Voice

Week #1: It's Okay to Have a Political Lean, but Only Jesus Gets Our Bow - **FILL**

- Jesus was a party crasher.

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Matthew 11:19 (NCV)

- Jesus’ party life messed with their party lines.

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Matthew 9:9-13 (NLT)

- Jesus invited disciples to follow him who had different political leanings.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: Simon (who is called Peter, which means “the rock”) and his brother Andrew; James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew (the tax collector); James, son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot (who would betray Him).

Matthew 10:2-4 (VOICE)

- Jesus invites you to bring your lean but submit your bow.
 - Leaning is having a different perspective.
 - Bowing is having a different allegiance.

But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

Philippians 3:20 (NLT)

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