

# Jesus For President: The Platform Of The Messiah

**Introduction.** At Jesus' birth, politicians worried about being unseated by one born to be King (Matthew 2:1-16; John 18:37).

As an adult, He was tempted with political power — all the kingdoms of the world (Luke 4:5-6). At the peak of His popularity, adoring people tried to forcibly crown Him king (John 6:15). At the end, Pilate judged Him on charges of seeking political power (Matthew 27:1-2, 11). In each instance, Jesus showed no interest and explained that He was no threat to rulers, for His “kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36).

It is safe to say that American candidates would have nothing to fear if Jesus were here. He wants no seat in the Oval Office. But what if? One's first impression might be, “Jesus would win by a landslide. He is well-known, trusted, loved, and the greatest leader the world has ever seen.” But if Jesus ran for president, would He win?

## ***I. The Prince Of Peace: An Attractive Candidate***

- A. Although He was the “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6), Jesus had no form, comeliness, or beauty to draw people to Him (Isaiah 53:2), but His personality and lifestyle led common people to hear Him gladly (Mark 12:37). Thousands — Jews and Gentiles — came to see and hear Jesus (John 12:20-21).
- B. Jesus possessed attractive qualities that would make Him a great president. As a friend of publicans and sinners (Matthew 11:18-19), He stood up for the poor and the elderly (Luke 4:18; 6:20; 7:22; 21:2-3), but He also prized the young, rich, and powerful (Matthew 27:57; Mark 10:21; Luke 7:36-50). He was scrupulously honest; He could not be bought (Matthew 4:1-22). He was sincere, unselfish, fair. He loved widows and children. He championed the underdog. He stood up to bullies. He was an independent thinker. He did not toe the religious party line.
- C. He had no skeletons in His closet, no little black book of off-the-record relationships to be discovered to His shame, no sins to derail His candidacy (Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:21-22).

## ***II. Rabbi Jesus Of Nazareth: A Controversial Figure***

- A. Everybody, it seems, has an opinion about Jesus (John 1:45); many radically different — even contradictory — groups claim Him as an advocate of their worldview. It is safe to say that preconceived views are often not in line with what Scripture says of Jesus. In the worst cases, He is blasphemously associated with sinful behaviors — His “brand” hijacked and twisted to endorse viewpoints He abhors. Inevitably He would be controversial today, as He was then (Luke 5:30; 10:30-37; 15:2; 19:7).
- B. Where might Jesus stand on today's issues? Society in His day faced many of the same issues, so we can construct an informed platform for His campaign from His speeches, conversations, actions, and His apostles who proclaimed the “doctrine of Christ” (2 John 9). Would someone be elected today who held the beliefs Jesus held?
  1. Government/society.
    - a) Jesus' teachings were designed for individuals, not governments, yet if all citizens — including politicians — followed His doctrines, the nation and

world would improve overnight (Psalm 9:17; 119:172; Proverbs 14:34; Matthew 7:12).

- b) Jesus supported government and was respectful of it (Matthew 22:21), even though He was suspicious of some of its leaders (Luke 13:32). He knew that God had given government to man (John 19:11).
2. Racism.
- a) Jesus saw all men — Jews, Samaritans, Gentiles — as made in God’s image (Genesis 1:26) and as sinners needing redemption (Romans 3:22-23). A seemingly chance meeting with a Samaritan woman at a well in John 4:1-39 shows Jesus dealing with the three major barriers:
    - (1) Racial: Hatred between Jews and Samaritans had existed for centuries. Most Jews avoided traveling through Samaria at all.
    - (2) Sexual: Samaritan women were seen as unclean from the cradle (Mishnah Niddah 4:1). Most Jewish men would not talk publicly with any woman, especially not a Samaritan woman.
    - (3) Religious: The temple on Mount Gerizim was a point of contention to the Jews from the time of its construction.
  - b) Seizing the opportunity to tease a thirsty man, the woman brought up these differences (vv. 19-24). She thought it was sheer need that compelled Him to ask her for water, but Jesus’ kind acceptance led her to believe He was the Messiah (vv. 9, 11, 19, 24). Later, this led many others in Sychar to follow Him (v. 39).
3. Economics.
- a) The prevailing view of Jesus as a Socialist is off-target. Jesus was not a Socialist nor a Democrat, Republican, or any political entity. He is a monarch who did not advocate any form of earthly government.
  - b) Socialism and the gospel differ in freedom of choice. Socialist governments take and redistribute wealth. The gospel leaves the one with money a choice. The gospel encourages and fosters a giving spirit (2 Corinthians 8:3) but does not coerce it.
  - c) Jesus was pro-work. He said that the laborer was worthy to be paid (Luke 10:7) and illustrated a parable with principles of capitalism (Matthew 20:1-15; Luke 19:20-24; cp. 2 Thessalonians 3:10; 1 Timothy 5:8). At the same time, He strongly opposed greed (Luke 12:15).
4. Poverty/welfare.
- a) Jesus often spoke out for human rights on behalf of oppressed people. Yet He was balanced, speaking both of a society’s responsibility to help others and an individual’s responsibility to help himself. Under normal circumstances, each is to bear his “own burden” (make his own living) (Galatians 6:5); under emergency or extreme circumstances, others (society, Christians) are to bear “one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2).
  - b) Jesus was pro-charity. He pointed to the needs of the disenfranchised. He demonstrated (Matthew 10:9-10; John 13:29) and taught love for neighbors (Matthew 22:39), even those we do not personally know (Luke 10:33-37; 14:13-14). Christians are to work to have something to give to those in need (Luke 6:38; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 6:17-19).

5. Political correctness/rights.
  - a) Jesus did not try to please anyone but His Father (John 8:29). The record of His life shows that He neither tried to stir up nor avoid trouble (Matthew 12:20; cp. Isaiah 42:1-4). He sometimes moved to another city when controversy was inevitable (Luke 4:28-31).
  - b) On the other hand, Jesus never adjusted His message to please people. To Him the right path was the unpopular one (Matthew 7:13). He would not “follow a multitude to do evil” (Exodus 23:2).
  - c) Jesus’ motto was, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). He taught to turn the cheek (Matthew 5:39), give the cloak (5:40), and walk another mile (5:41). Is this not better than “every man for himself, demand your rights, agitate, intimidate, and regulate”? Healthy societies focus on responsibilities more than rights.
6. Religion/public prayer.
  - a) Surprisingly, Jesus was no big fan of public prayer, at least not as practiced by the Pharisees (Matthew 6:5-6), although He prayed publicly on occasion (John 11:41-42; 17:1-26).
  - b) It is ironic that the Son of God was crucified primarily because He was not “holy” enough for religious leaders in His day (Matthew 9:10-11; 11:19).
7. Freedom of religion/freedom of speech.
  - a) In our media-driven, hypersensitive, hide-behind-your-keyboard-and-fire-away culture, the great American virtues of Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion are pushed to a back burner.
  - b) The trait of tolerance is championed, but if a person dares to exercise his freedom of speech in taking a view differing from the mainstream — especially if it originates in the Bible — then tolerating him no longer seems a virtue.
  - c) Jesus encouraged mercy and unhypocritical judgment (Matthew 7:1; Luke 6:36). He encouraged righteous judgment (John 7:24; cp. Isaiah 5:20).
8. Women.
  - a) Jesus never married, so He had no wife or mother-in-law. Jesus never fathered children, so He had no daughters or granddaughters. He never had a romantic relationship, so no girlfriends. He had a mother and sisters. He had female friends and followers. Even with this limited personal experience, Jesus knew the fairer sex (John 2:25). Women were never objects to Jesus. They were not property. They were not tools to be used or slaves to be exploited. More than any other individual in history, Jesus raised the status of women.
    - (1) He complimented women (Matthew 15:28).
    - (2) He helped women (Luke 13:12).
    - (3) He comforted women (John 20:15).
    - (4) He defended women (Matthew 26:10, 13).
    - (5) He elevated women (Galatians 3:28).
  - b) Jesus certainly got the women’s vote in His day. His most ardent followers were women — they were last at the cross and first at the tomb (Matthew 27:55; 28:5). They liked Him; trusted Him; respected Him; followed Him;

cared for Him (Matthew 26:7; 27:61; Mark 15:40-41; Luke 8:3; 11:27; 23:27; Acts 1:14; 5:14).

9. Abortion.

- a) One of the seven sins the Lord hates is “hands that shed innocent blood” (Proverbs 6:16-17; cp. Deuteronomy 27:25; Jeremiah 1:5). Jesus was not anti-women, but He was pro-children.
- b) He loved them; He took time for them. He held them (Mark 9:36) and held them up as examples of how all should behave (Matthew 18:3; 19:14). He would never want us to harm them.

10. Marriage/adultery.

- a) Jesus would run on a pro-family ticket. His first miracle was performed at a wedding feast (John 2:1-11).
- b) He opposed divorce (Matthew 5:32; 19:4-9; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18; Hebrews 13:4), but He allowed it for fornication (Matthew 19:9). He encouraged reconciliation (1 Corinthians 7:10-11). On one hand, when a woman caught in adultery was brought to Jesus, He did not condemn her to die but He told her to go and “sin no more” (John 8:1-11).

11. Homosexuality.

- a) Christ supported and taught that from creation, God intended man to only marry a woman and vice versa (Matthew 19:4-5; 1 Corinthians 7:2).
- b) Homosexuality was “vile affections,” “against nature,” “unseemly,” and “error” which would result in someone not inheriting eternal life (Romans 1:26-27; cp. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

12. Animals/environment.

- a) God gave man “dominion” over the works of His hands (Psalm 8:6). Jesus used but never abused animals and the environment (Proverbs 12:10; Matthew 12:12). He rode a donkey, caught and cooked fish, and ate a lamb (Matthew 17:27; 21:7; 26:18; John 21:9).
- b) Jesus cleaned up after Himself and collected “twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes” (Mark 6:43). If we are to be stewards of the earth (Genesis 1:28), then Jesus was the perfect steward (cp. 1 Corinthians 4:2).

### ***III. The Resurrected Lord: The Winning Ticket***

- A. None of these is the most crucial issue. What is most critical for each voter is not who is President, but who is Lord (Mark 16:1-8). It is not how the election affects the pocketbook, but how one’s decisions affect his soul (Matthew 16:26).
- B. When Jesus comes, He will not be President. He will be King, and every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Him (Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:9-11).

**Conclusion.** The polls are open. How will you mark the ballot for Lord of your life and Savior of your soul? If you are willing to support Him, then obey Him today and follow Him in true devotion.