

Sermon Notes

Jesus and the Zealots

A Biblical conversation about passion and politics

In a time where divergence of political opinions is a hot button topic, it is right to ask: what should the posture of a believer be? Let's examine some passages that reveal how Jesus and his followers thought and lived.

Luke 6:12-16 Of the 12 disciples that Jesus called, note Matthew (formerly Levi, a tax collector), and Simon the Zealot.

Lesson:

Acts 22:3-4 Paul defends himself at trial saying: "I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death."

Philippians 3:6 Here in the summary of his qualifications, Paul says he persecuted the church out of zeal.

Deuteronomy 6:12-16 Many Jews used these verses to justify their condemnation of the sinful actions of others, because God is jealous for our devotion and obedience.

Lesson:

Proverbs 19:2 zeal without knowledge is not good

Rom. 10:2 they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge

Romans 12:11 never be lacking in zeal, keep your spiritual fervor

Gal. 4:18 it is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good

Lesson:

Mark 12:13-17 Jesus declined to engage on the matter of paying taxes

Matt. 26:47-56 Jesus declined to use his power to resist wrongful arrest

Matthew 26:57-63 Jesus did not defend himself against false accusations

Luke 24:14-31 Jesus refused to bend to the hopes of Israel

Lesson:

Matthew 13:47-50 Parable of the good and bad fish in the net

Lesson:

Practical steps to strike a balance:

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