

Title: Kingdom-Centered Voting
Text: Joshua 5:13–6:5
(Adopted from Dr. Tony Evans- The Concept of Kingdom Voting)

God promises to bless the nation who prioritizes God's relationship to it.

What is a Kingdom Voter?

A kingdom voter is a Christian who takes the opportunity to promote the rule of God in history through civil government.

A Kingdom Voter is at the core Kingdom Independent.

Kingdom Voters do not ultimately belong to any political party; they belong to the kingdom of God.

A Kingdom Voter ultimately is dedicated to advancing God's Name, God's Person, and God's policies in history.

I am a kingdom citizen.

- I do Kingdom voting as a Kingdom Independent because I do not represent the kingdoms of this world. I represent the kingdom of the Lord and of his church.
- You are called to be Kingdom Independent and to make sure your church is a kingdom church creating kingdom disciples will make it a kingdom impact.

The question is how should a Christian vote?

But I'd like to suggest to you that there is a Kingdom world view to approaching this subject and your vote and if you will adopt a kingdom worldview then we can approach this issue and come out as the Church of Jesus Christ not in conflict even if we didn't vote the same way.

You see, until the church gets it right the culture can't get it right.

Tony Evans- "God doesn't skip the church house to fix the White House."

What is a Kingdom Worldview?

Now, the whole concept of Kingdom voting, His kingdom, and, if you're familiar with the world view that we promote, it is the Kingdom Agenda.

- The visible demonstration and manifestation of the comprehensive rule of God over every area of life as is shown through the Scripture, my obedience to His ways, and with the aid of the Holy Spirit.
- God's perspective is tied to one subject, and that is, His Glory revealed through the expansion of his kingdom.

I do a lot of counseling on many diverse issues. People come to me, and I try to assist them. Some are helped. Some are not helped.

- If you were to come to me and say ... “My life is falling apart; what should I do?”
 - I would take the Bible. I would give you what God says about your circumstances.
 - I would then ask you to agree to an obedient set of actions to apply what you learned.
 - then I would ask the Holy Spirit to empower your obedience based on the Book to bring healing to your devastated life.
- If you brought to me your family and said, “My marriage and our home is unraveling...”
 - BIBLE -I would take the same book that I use with you as an individual I would show you the biblical principles related to the circumstances that are underlining your difficulties in your home.
 - Principles and steps - I would give you practical steps to obediently apply the principles from scripture, and...
 - Holy Spirit help - then I would pray for the holy spirit's empowerment for that application for the transformation of your family.
- If you came to me with your church in disarray, members fighting, leaders fighting...
 - I take the same book that I use with you as an individual or as a family and I would show you God's pre-script for how the church has been created and designed to function.
 - Then I would call for acts of obedience that would demonstrate faith in what was written, and...
 - Then invoke the Holy Spirit to empower obedience to bring about harmony in the church.

But what do you do when your nation is unraveling?

What do you do when the two teams are Democrats and Republicans?

What do you do when the conflict is between the police and the community?

What do you do when issues of Justice in a society are chaotic and conflicting?

What do you do when people with different perspectives and worldviews and goal lines stand in opposition to each other as to direction for a country?

What do you do?

Unfortunately, far too many who name the Name of Jesus Christ change books.

I'd like to suggest today that God does not change books.

God Does Not Change Books

- If we're going to bring harmony to us in the church as a model to harmony in the nation, we've got to stop changing books or we must stop using the part of the book that we like while ignoring the whole counsel of God.

Illustration: Dads ump little league Game – HS short ref...coach from other team put on the striped shirt.

- When it comes to this area what would you think about a referee who took off his jersey and put on the Jersey of one of the other two teams.

What is Kingdom Voting?

What do we mean by Kingdom Voting?

Let me give you a working definition related to Kingdom voting.

Kingdom voting is the opportunity and responsibility of committed Christians to partner with God by expanding his rule in society through civil government.

- Kingdom Voting is revealed only to the degree that you include God's Person and God's policies in society through civil government...
- ...as he defines it, not as you or I prefer...
- ...so that we can begin to see healing in the church, so it can be modeled in the culture.

An Opportunity

We call it an opportunity, because every culture doesn't have the opportunity to vote on its leadership.

A Responsibility

We call it a responsibility of partnering.

- Why? Because all through the Bible God calls people to partner with Him. Scripture makes it clear that we are workers together with God

So, while we must pray for God to heal our land we must partner with God for the healing of our land.

When our part of the partnership wanes, when we don't fulfill our responsibility, we don't change who God is, but we may alter how He may work because the partners aren't dealing with the partnership the way the partnership was established to work, to run, and to operate.

- God is not askew. We have not partnered the way we have been called to partner.

Partnering calls for alignment

God has lost His Democratic Partners. He has lost His Republican partners and His Libertarian partners because they have left being kingdom partners and kingdom voters and have become godlessly political.

If we're going to see Him intervene and inject Himself into the affairs of the collapsing society of a devastated nation, then we're going to have to return to Him, not in concept only, nor by simply throwing His Name around.

- Everybody says, pray! Everybody says they have faith in God. It's hard to make it too far in our culture without some kind of belief in God. That is not enough.
- God has policies, and it is only as we embrace His Person and His policies that we will experience His presence in healing our lives, our churches, and our nation.

The further away, the more chaotic

- The further God is removed from the life of an individual, from the life and definition of a family, from the life and definition of the church, and in this case from the life and definition of a citizenry, of a society ...the more chaotic those entities become.

The closer to God the less chaotic

- The closer the God of the Bible is to the individual, the family, the church, and the society, the more ordered and less chaotic it will become.

- God is not simply a cute addendum you throw out there. No! He wants to be intricately involved. If we are to partner with Him and draw closer to Him, we need to know what His concerns are so that we make the right decisions.

What is God's Concern?

- The theme of the Bible is the glory of God through the expansion of His Kingdom. Once you've left the Bible, you've left Him.
- God is concerned about one thing that he's glorified and that his kingdom is expanded.
- The Bible is clear, for example:

Psalm 22:28

For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

NIV - *The kingdom is the Lord's, and he rules the Nations*

Did you hear that?! The kingdom is the Lord's!

Psalm 22 28 says, '*...and he rules the nations.*'

Psalm 33:12

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...

Psalm 103:19

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

NIV – '*...his sovereignty rules over all.*'

Let's get this straight:

- He is a King running a kingdom, and that involves all Nations. So if that involves this nation, it involves the government of your life, and it involves the influence of your vote.

Now, I know that that creates consternation because we're not voting on what the Bible calls "kings."

In our case, we vote on Presidents and we vote on Senators, Representatives, Mayors and Governors and all down the line of those who represent us in civil government.

We want our candidate to win as we ought to; that's why we vote for them, but you need to know that God is partnering in this situation.

Daniel 2:21

He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; ...

NIV - *he deposes kings and raises up others.*

Yes, it says that God removes kings and he establishes kings!

He is running this show. You can exclude Him if you want to, but it is to your detriment and my detriment.

So, guess what! If you are a Christian and you name the Name of Jesus Christ, you don't get to leave God out of your vote. You don't get the vote just because you like it or want to. You only get to vote for his glory and the expansion of his kingdom.

Well, I want to try to answer the question now since I've defined Kingdom voting

How Does God Vote?

I want you to vote with God, and I want me to vote with God; so let's find out how God is voting. If you're a committed Christian, you and I can vote with God.

Joshua 6:2

And the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor."

If He says it, it is SO!

He "votes" and it happens. – It is His decision.

Joshua is fighting the Battle of Jericho.

God has promised him victory, but Joshua has to partner with Him. He's going to give him victory, but only on God's terms.

- Joshua has to partner with God on God's terms.
- The wall of Jericho is not going to just fall down.
- Joshua's got to do some things for the walls to fall down and for God to give this nation victory. They have to march.
- They have to partner with God.

We want to find out how God votes because I want you to vote like God votes.

Because, if I want to vote like God votes, I also do not want to vote against God, right?

Joshua 5:13

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

- Joshua is surveying the walls around Jericho.
- It says that he lifted up his eyes and looked: he's peering out; he's looking, and behold a man was standing opposite him with a sword drawn in his hand.
 - Here we have a guy ready to fight; he's ready to get it on, ready to go to battle.
 - Joshua went to him and said, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?"

Are You with us or against us?

Oh, isn't that the question we ask when voting? ...For us or against us?

- Are you Democrat or Republican?
- You know what you are, and you know which way you are going to vote.
- People ask me that question all the time.
- I have asked people that question many times.
- Following debates, who looks good and who will you vote for?
- Is he or she for us or against us?

Joshua sees this guy ready to go to war, side sword drawn, and asks the question, “Whose side are you on? ...are you for us?”

- **We are Conservatives**
 - Because we are the Church, like Israel we are God's people – He has to be for us.
 - We are Judeo- Christian American Patriots.
 - Built on the 10 commandments, the Law of Moses – You have to be for us, right?
 - We believe life is ordained before the womb so 10 weeks isn't enough, 22 weeks isn't enough – You are on our side, right?
 - We believe you made a man a man and a woman a woman – so You are on our side, right?
 - We hold to the rule of law and the justice for every crime in the statutes – You must be for us!
 - Tell ME! Are you for us, the conservatives or are you for our adversaries, the liberals?
- **They are liberals**
 - Jericho -they don't they don't hold to the same stuff we hold to, religiously, spiritually.
 - They allow crime.
 - They are for drugs.
 - They are for aborting babies.
 - They are for same sex marriage.
 - They are for accepting transgender as fact.
 - You cannot be on their side!!!

Joshua wants to know...

- We're different so I want to know whose side you're on!
- That's a very important question.
 - This guy is out here with a sword, ready to fight.
 - You may not know it, but he's captain of an army, so he's got a whole bunch of warriors who will fight with us or against us.
 - So, if this guy is for us we've got it made because we're going to fight, and now we've got this whole other Army and they are going to fight for the conservative side!
 - Conservatives are going to win.
 - But now, if he is for “them,” or the other side gets him and his army to fight with them, we have a problem.
 - We are going to fight Jericho, but now they have this other Army and we're going to be outnumbered.
 - Joshua needs to know whose side this guy is on, and his army, so he can figure out a strategy.

Joshua knew he was somebody - Captain of an army. But he did not realize he was addressing the Captain of the Lord's army. Let's look at the Captain's answer.

Remember, this is Captain of the Lord's army... this is like a theophany.

- This is like God showing up in history and when he did that in the Old Testament it was Jesus Christ pre-incarnate.
- So God shows up in visible, corporeal form and leading an army, ready to fight.
 - Ready to fight because the sword is drawn.
 - Let's get it on! It's time to decide who you're voting for.

Joshua 5:14

And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come."

NIV - *"Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come."*

Are You on my side? NO!

He said "no," he means "no!"

How are You going to vote, God? My candidate? Their Candidate? NO!

No to you

No to them

"I indeed come now as Captain of the host of the Lord."

NEITHER

"No" Translation - I'm not on either of your sides

But I am your child!

They are not your child!

We are Your people! We are the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We are Israel! ...You are our God!
They are Jericho! They don't know Your name... let alone serve You.

He answers, NO!

I am conservative. / They are progressive. – He says, NO!

I'm operating on a whole other program.

- Israel, you want me on your program.
- You are my people, you know you're the chosen nation, and I'm still not on your side.
- Just because you're my chosen people does not mean I do things you think are best.
- I know the people in the city do not follow me.
 - I'm not on Jericho's side either!

I'm not voting for either of you, so let me tell you God's political position.

God's Political Position: He is a Kingdom Independent

Let me say that again:

The God of the Bible is a Kingdom Independent, and just because you're a Christian, just because you belong to Israel doesn't mean He's on your side.

- Look at the road in the wilderness – judging His people in the desert and leaving them there to die.
- Look at the book of Judges, and the foreign oppressors.
- Look at The time of the kings of the North and South.
- Look at the time before the exile and during the exile.
 - Nebuchadnezzar was the sword of the Lord.
 - Cyrus the great oppressed God's people, yet allowed the Temple construction to begin.
 - Darius was not a Yahweh-follower, yet paid for the temple construction. – Ezra

- Artaxerxes did not follow God – yet commissioned the building of the wall. – Nehemiah
- Xerxes did not serve the Lord, yet decreed support for the defense of the people of Israel on the day of Purim. – Esther

Again, just because you're a Christian or just because you belong to Israel doesn't mean He's on your side.

When it comes to the battles now you can quote that all day but he's telling Joshua the head of Israel God's people, NO!

- Because a lot of Christians think, just because we're Christian, God is on our side.
- That sounds right, but the pre-incarnate Christ, God's manifestation the Old Testament said, “No; and I'm not on that side either, because I am the consummate independent!”
- So, if you want to know who David Foster is, and how I will vote, I'm a Kingdom Independent.
- I did not say I am an Independent
 - I am not independent. I am not going it alone.
 - I am a KINGDOM Independent and will vote with a kingdom mindset.
- I did not say I am a Libertarian – My liberty is in Christ

Let me go one step further.

Every Christian should be a Kingdom Independent and only a Kingdom Independent.

- Now you may vote Democratic, you may vote Republican, you may vote Libertarian.
- You may even write-in. I had twenty people write me in in the year 2016.
- **The only thing you are obliged to be, if you want God on your, side is a Kingdom Independent**
- Which means you can only be “Democrat light” or “Republican light.” Remember those soft drinks “light,” you know, not too much sugar, not too many calories.

I'm voting over here. We'll go into some of the nuances. Well, I'm voting over here, but I'm not obligated to either party, because I belong to another order; I belong to another king; and to a kingdom.

- What the captain says is, “I did not come to take sides, Joshua. I came to take over!”

God's not here to take your side. He's here to take over.

- Why? Because He rules the nation.
- Do you know what it means to rule? That means He call it shots. That means to have the last word. That means to determine how things are going to work out.
- The God of the Bible does not ride the backs of donkeys or elephants. The God of the Bible is not first Democrat or Republican.
- The God of the Bible is his own Independent; He only votes for Himself.
 - If God votes for Egypt to enslave His people for 400 years – he will.
 - If God votes for the Philistines to oppress the people of Israel for a generation – He will.
 - If God votes for Assyria will wipe out the Northern Kingdom – they will.
 - If God votes for Babylon to conquer and enslave the people of the Southern Kingdom – He will.

How do we Vote in light of this?

- We have options: parties, independent, or write-in.
- If we align with a donkey or an elephant and not with the Lamb of God who is the Lion of Judah – we are missing it!

Our problem occurs is that no political party only votes God's way.

- The problem is that, among men...
- ...they pick and choose
 - some pick righteousness, others pick judgment
 - Some choose Justice, others Compassion
 - Some pick life emphasis in the womb, some pick life justice to the tomb;
 - We pick and choose, as if God were divided.
- Joshua learned a great lesson, for us also today in the 21st century when it comes to civil government.

“Don't think I'm on your side just because you're my people.”

That's why we see so much brokenness in our lives and in our churches.

That's why we have a white church and a black church,

- The only reason why we have a white church and a black church is because one group of the church decided that another set of Christians didn't belong and as a result a schism that God didn't vote for.
- How do you know God didn't vote for it?
 - He drew his sword!
 - How do you know he drew his sword?
 - It's called a civil war.
 - Now I don't know if you knew that or not but the Civil War was designed to bring an end to slavery. God was the captain drawing a sword
- God says, “Since you are not going to get this thing together in the church I will separate the nation! The nation is about to split apart.”
 - “I am going to draw a sword!”

Unless we allow God to be in on every issue to make the final decision, we are against HIM!

- Regardless of how you were raised; regardless of color your skin; regardless of your political background or allegiances...
- I'm not suggesting that you not be a Democrat or you not be a Republican as long as you hold lightly, as long as you're not fully committed to that party or their platform.
 - God's policies and His Biblical position must be the guide to our voting. We are KINGDOM citizens.
- Because God wants to have the final say. He rules, and you and I get to partner with Him.

This leads us to a final thought

Joshua 5:14

And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshipped and said to him, “What does my lord say to his servant?”

It says when Joshua heard “No!” he fell down on the earth and bowed down.

He submitted

- If you're unwilling to submit and say, “Let God be true and every man a liar.”
 - That means - Even my party, whatever that party might be, is a liar.

- Yet, I will bow to God in my vote
- Yes, you're going to vote on this or on that.
- You have a part to play in the partnership with God.
 - I got that as long as you do it “light,” as long as you're not owned by a party or vote for a person or for a policy that stands against God’s Word and His way.
 - Chapter 6 tells about the part they had to play.
 - Walking around the wall once a day for six days every day; walk around seven times. He gave him an odd strategy for a supernatural victory.
 - They looked like fools.
 - Yet this was God’s charge to his people in what they were to do.
 - Look the fool to the nations. Look the fool to the world.
 - Submit to God.

So what's a kingdom voter?

One who understands they've been given the opportunity and responsibility to partner with God for the expansion of His rule in society through civil government.

What is Kingdom voting?

Kingdom voting is the opportunity and responsibility of committed Christians to partner with God in influencing His rule for the order and improvement of society through the vehicle of civil government, because we have been given this opportunity to express through voting God's heart and mindset about how society is to function.

We are obligated to take advantage of this witness that voting gives us, because we have a say-so in a democracy about how society functions, and since we are to reflect God in society.

Since it is God Himself who created government, we should take seriously the opportunity and responsibility to as best we can, through the voting influence we have, to reflect God's character, God's content, and God's perspective on how Society should function through the righteous use of the Ballot Box.