

## Compelling Reasons Why Believers Should be Involved in Politics

**Luke 19:** <sup>12</sup>A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. <sup>13</sup>So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, "Do business till I come." <sup>14</sup>But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, "We will not have this man to reign over us." <sup>15</sup>And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. <sup>16</sup>Then came the first, saying, "Master, your mina has earned ten minas." <sup>17</sup>And he said to him, "Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities." <sup>18</sup>And the second came, saying, "Master, your mina has earned five minas." <sup>19</sup>Likewise he said to him, "You also be over five cities." <sup>20</sup>Then another came, saying, "Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief. <sup>21</sup>For I feared you, because you are an austere man. You collect what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow." <sup>22</sup>And he said to him, "Out of your own mouth I will judge you, you wicked servant." In the context of a similar parable, Jesus also said, "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required." (Luke 12:48)

Now although this parable is using currency as the example, the principle applies to any and everything that Jesus has entrusted to us His followers while He is temporarily away. Americans have a freedom to vote. And when Jesus returns, He will ask us how we used our freedom to vote – did we make a difference or did we just "keep it in a handkerchief."

**1<sup>st</sup> Reason:** As citizens of the nation-state, Christians have the same civic duties as all citizens have – to serve on juries, to pay taxes, to vote, and to elect the candidates that they feel are the best qualified. And just like their secular counterparts, they are to also engage responsibly in public policy. But they are to go even further as believers – they are to pray for those who are in authority, because God considers them His hands extended to govern His creation.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reason:** As citizens of the Kingdom of God, Christians are to bring God's standards of righteousness and justice to bear upon the kingdoms of this world. This is the cultural ramifications of the Great Commission. Christian political involvement has the potential to move the political system away from the brokering of the self-interest of powerful persons and groups into a renewed concern for the public interest.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reason:** Christians have an obligation to bring transcendent moral values into the public debate. All law implicitly involves morality. The popular idea that "you can't legislate morality" is a myth. Morality is legislated every day from the vantage point of one value system or another. The question is not whether or not we will legislate morality, but whose morality will we legislate. Law is but a body of rules regulating human behavior; it establishes, from the view of the state, the rightness or wrongness of human behavior. Most laws, therefore, have moral implications. For instance, statutes prohibiting murder, mandates for seatbelts, and regulations for industry safety are all designed to protect human life – a reflection of the particular moral view that values the dignity and worth of human life.

**Conclusion:** So as one can see, believers have a grave responsibility to be involved. Interestingly, in all of the political landscape-changers over the past couple hundred years, every single one of them had one thing in common – they were just ordinary people that allowed God to use them in an extraordinary way. So if you are an ordinary person, you qualify to be used by God to make a difference.