



## Week #2: Shift Your Focus, Heal the Divide

Jesus redeems our political divide by shifting our focus from the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus shifts our focus in:

- How to \_\_\_\_\_.

*“If someone forces you to walk with him for a mile, walk with him for two instead”.*

Matthew 5:41 (VOICE)

The Jesus Way to Respond:

- Show care and mercy (Matthew 5:7)
- Make peace (Matthew 5:9)
- Refrain from angrily mocking (Matthew 5:21-22)
- Prioritize reconciling over winning disputes (Matthew 5:23-25)
- Love and pray for your enemies (Matthew 5:43-45)

*“You have been taught to love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you this: love your enemies. Pray for those who torment you and persecute you...”*

Matthew 5:43-45 (VOICE)

Jesus shifts our focus in:

- How to have \_\_\_\_\_.

*Jesus enters Jericho and seems only to be passing through. <sup>2</sup>Living in Jericho is a man named Zaccheus. He’s the head tax collector and is very rich. <sup>3</sup>He is also very short. He wants to see Jesus as He passes through the center of town, but he can’t get a glimpse because the crowd blocks his view. <sup>4</sup>So he runs ahead of the crowd and climbs up into a sycamore tree so he can see Jesus when He passes beneath him.*

<sup>5</sup> *Jesus comes along and looks up into the tree[, and there He sees Zaccheus].*

**Jesus:** *Zaccheus, hurry down from that tree because I need to stay at your house tonight.*

<sup>6</sup> *Zaccheus scrambles down and joyfully brings Jesus back to his house.* <sup>7</sup> *Now the crowd sees this, and they're upset.*

**Crowd** (grumbling): *Jesus has become the houseguest of this fellow who is a notorious sinner.*

**Zaccheus:** <sup>8</sup> *Lord, I am giving half of my goods to the poor, and whomever I have cheated I will pay back four times what I took.*

**Jesus:** <sup>9</sup> *Today liberation has come to this house, since even Zaccheus is living as a son of Abraham.* <sup>10</sup> *For the Son of Man came to seek and to liberate the lost.*

Luke 19:1-10 (VOICE)

Jesus shifts our focus in:

- How to \_\_\_\_\_ His love.

Jesus shifts our focus from the \_\_\_\_\_, to the \_\_\_\_\_, because He mostly cares about the \_\_\_\_\_.

### Discussion Questions

1. How would the world be different if we the Church changed our emphasis from the what to the how?
2. Who is a group of people you have a passion for, or a group of hurting people that you feel particular care for, and why?
3. How will you pray for them and love them well in this next season?

### Recommend 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 Josh Ryan Butler \(2024\)](#)
- [Truth Over Tribe: Pledging Allegiance to the Lamb, not the Donkey or the Elephant, by Patrick Miller and Keith Simon \(2022\)](#)
- [Not in It to Win It, by Andy Stanley \(2022\)](#)
- [Thou Shall Not Be A Jerk: A Christian's Guide to Engaging Politics, by Eugene Cho \(2020\)](#)
- [Jesus Outside the Lines, by Scott Sauls \(2015\)](#)
- Reality LA Politics and the Way of Jesus Week 1 | Church and Politics Sermon (Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV)

- How to Approach Complex Topics with Grace with Ashlee Eiland - Episode 917 That's Sounds Podcast
- Fun Podcast, with Annie F. Downs.  
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/that-sounds-fun-with-annie-f-downs/id944925529?i=1000668446383>Week #2:

**(VOICE) The Voice**

## Week #2: Shift Your Focus, Heal the Divide - **FILL**

Jesus redeems our political divide by shifting our focus from the what to the how.

Jesus shifts our focus in:

- How to respond.

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Matthew 5:41 (VOICE)

The Jesus Way to Respond:

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*“You have been taught to love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you this: love your enemies. Pray for those who torment you and persecute you...”*

Matthew 5:43-45 (VOICE)

Jesus shifts our focus in:

- How to have relationships.

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Luke 19:1-10 (VOICE)

Jesus shifts our focus in:

- How to represent His love.

Jesus shifts our focus from the what, to the how, because He mostly cares about the who.

### Discussion Questions

1. How would the world be different if we the Church changed our emphasis from the what to the how?
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