

If Jesus Were Running for President, Would He Win?

By **Allen Webster**

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.” Second thoughts would produce, well . . . second thoughts.

If Jesus ran for president, would He win?

The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6): An Attractive Candidate

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).

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 old (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.

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).

Rabbi Jesus of Nazareth (John 1:45): A Controversial Figure

Everybody, it seems, has an opinion about Jesus; 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. In others, He is simply misunderstood as He sometimes was when He walked among men. Inevitably He would be controver-

Prayers and Concerns

- ♦ Rose Burton had her replacement hip pop out of place this week, and she had to have it adjusted.
- ♦ Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Ruby Loftis. Her services were Thursday.
- ♦ Remember those with health issues—Dorlene Butler, Ruth Strain, Norma Jones, Steve Siebels, Aleta Collins, Bob Robbins.
- ♦ All those battling cancer—Amy Myers, Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Jim Kirkland, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Nikki Smith, Brad Luna, Marian Luna, Jenny James, Bill McFarland, Debbie Eslinger.
- ♦ Those confined to nursing homes or homebound.

If you don't know the answers, read Luke 1:26-27, 35-36, 65 and Matt. 3:1-4.

John the Baptist

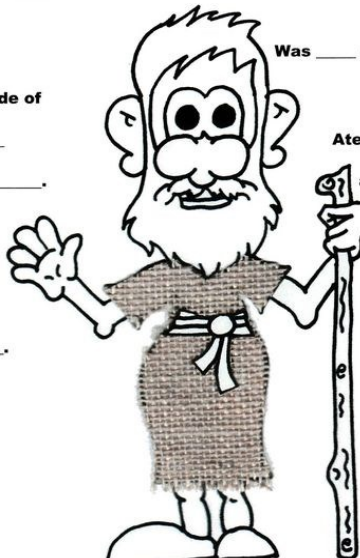
Lived in the _____.

Was _____ months older than Jesus.

Wore clothing made of _____ and _____.

Ate _____ and _____.

Prepared the way for _____.



sial today, as He was then (Luke 5:30; 10:30–37; 15:2; 19:7).

Everybody, it seems, has an opinion about Jesus

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 Bible verses.

(continued next week)

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
11-5	Bill Cockrum	11-4	Jim and Debra Lane
11-7	Wanda Beard	11-16	Tinker and Karen Langston
11-8	Ashley Hossman	11-30	Harold and Mary Ann Reynolds
11-13	Kay Young	Birthdays	
11-15	Kelly Lemberg	11-24	Lincoln Gosdin (3)
11-21	Merle Scott	11-25	Henry Flaughner
11-22	Larry Butler		

Barbara Stevens will be serving roast beef, mashed potatoes, and dessert for Wednesday night fellowship supper.

Date	Event	Details
Wed. Nov. 20, 6 p.m. No supper or classes here.	Community Thanks-giving Service with food after	Halbert speaking at Lilly Ridge Service.

In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the kingdom of heaven is near." The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said, "He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, prepare the way for the Lord's coming! Clear the road for Him!"

Matthew 3:1-3

November Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

11-3 David Stevens
11-10 Don Luna
11-17 John Abraham
11-24 Mark Lane

Communion & Closing Prayer

Vance Hambelton
Tinker Langston
D. E. Pleasant
Titus Smith

Song Leader: John Abraham
Greeters: Dana & Marsha Crisp

The Family News

November 3, 2024

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***John Made the Road for Jesus***

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

#587, *Sing and Be Happy*

#225, *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

#354, *I Gave My Life for Thee*; Communion Service

#764, *Teach Me, Lord, to Wait*

Sermon and Invitation

#936, *Lord, I'm Coming Home*

#853, *When We All Get to Heaven*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880