

Yesterday as a country, we celebrated the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. That's quite a feat, quite a feat. So big that my emails have been blowing up. My phone has been blowing up because people texting me and calling me and telling me that since today is the Sunday afterwards, I can finally start preaching about the right things. And I thought that was interesting. I thought that was really interesting that people were taking all this time and their day to text me and call me and email me, telling me that I can finally start preaching the right things. They made me think about two things. First of all, what are they thinking are the right thing?. And second of all, am I preaching the right things because they already think that I'm not? How's this go? So a good friend of mine called, and he disagrees with everything that I preach about, that I talk about, that. I share about. Absolutely everything. There is not one thing we agree on. I'm not even sure why we're friends to be honest.

But he's so excited because he loves the Fourth of July. He loves everything that it stands for. He is very proud of being an American. He's very proud that he served. He's very proud of everything that it represents in his mind. And I asked him why he thinks I should be able to preach that this week. Because I tell him I do not believe that Party politics belong in the pulpit. I don't think they do, even though we've been given full and absolute approval to do it. I don't agree with it.

And he tells me that we were founded as a Christian nation. That Jesus was an American, and we should be promoting that more. And as he tells me this, I ask him if he's ever actually read the Declaration of Independence because Jesus didn't sign it. As much as he might believe that he did, he did not sign it. And in it. It doesn't say that we were founded as a Christian nation. It does talk about God, and it talks about certain rights that we are given because of that.

You know Paul tells us in Romans that it's okay to have governments. It's okay to follow them. It's okay to be a part of them. That's important. We are a part of something much bigger than ourselves, but unfortunately, we're a part of two different things. We are a part of the Earthly world, and we are part of the spirit. And unfortunately, so many times they do not cross. What we believe in here on Earth affects us on a day-to-day basis. How we treat one another affects us on a day-to-day basis. The idea that we are greater than what we truly are individually is something that we are founded under. Our Declaration does talk about those things. It talks about a number of things, a number of grievances that we had 250 years ago, and if you read it, a lot of those grievances we still have today. But those are Earthly grievances. That is what happens here on Earth, and now.

I chose to be attitudes today because those are Heavenly grievances. Those are the things that we should be focusing on for our spirit, for who we are, The foundation of what the Declaration was written about, not written for. This is the beginning in Matthew. The beginning of the sermon on the Mount, the beginning of Jesus, talking to everyone, telling them that, even though we live day to day here on Earth, and we agree, and we see things God sees more. God hears more. God knows more than we can imagine. And all of these, we see we marginalized people because we are.

We instantly the first day when you think of the attitudes you think of blessed are the meek. The actual word, the original word Greek that was used, isn't the same word that we associate with meek. The word was everyone. We apply it to people that we think are trouble.

We apply it to people that we think need more help. But the word is for everyone. It's a list of ways that we can help one another. That we can be greater than ourselves individually.

We focus so much on the Earthly ways. We focus so much on what affects us today. Sometimes we lose sight of tomorrow, the better tomorrow. To my friend, I said. Why? Why? If we focus on what's important today, buying new shoes that we don't need. Buying extravagant hamburger that we don't have to have. Buying pretty clothes, jewelry, gaming systems. Yesterday I went out and I almost bought this \$200 Lego set. Why? That doesn't do anybody any good. It'll make me happy for a couple hours, But why? Jesus tells us in so many ways, so many different times all we have to do is love our neighbor. That's it. Simple rule. Love your neighbor and the rest falls into place. How do we do that? We spend a week celebrating division. We spend a lifetime celebrating materialistic means, but we get to spend an eternity celebrating love. Celebrating the love we have for each other, and celebrating the love that they have for us.

Let us pray.