**No Dual Citizenship**

Based on [Luke 14:15-24](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Lk14.15-24)

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The US / Canadian border has been closed for months, which is a strange situation for me. I am a US citizen, not a Canadian one. I could apply and be a dual citizen, a citizen of both countries. And I might someday. But, I have always thought the idea of dual citizenship as not making sense. Undergirding the idea of citizenship is loyalty to one’s country. How can you take an oath to be loyal to both countries? If Canada and the US would go to war and I got drafted into the military, I couldn’t be loyal to both. I’m sure that would never happen, but it shows that you can only be a dual citizen when neither country expects much out of you, when there’s no conflict. When there is, the idea of dual citizenship is exposed for what it is...a meaningless title. Because it is when there is a conflict between two loyalties that your true priorities are revealed.

It is the same with the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the world. We all reside here on earth, but for those who believe, our citizenship is in heaven. Our loyalty to heaven’s king. When John prepared the way for Jesus he preached “Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand.” So did Jesus. And he began his parables indicating that they were describing what the kingdom of God was like on earth. He said to Nicodemus, “Unless you are born of water and Spirit, you cannot enter the Kingdom of God.” And lest you think that the Kingdom of God is not yet here, Jesus said to believers, “Nor will they say ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

The kingdom of God is here. God is ruling right now in our hearts and minds through faith. We pray “Thy kingdom come”, and by that we ask “that God would give us his Holy Spirit, so that by his grace we believe His holy word, and lead Godly lives both here in time and there in eternity.” The kingdom of God is in the midst of us. And when we assemble as a church, we are a foreign embassy in the world, offering sanctuary to other citizens in heaven living abroad. And we--who share the same Word, have the same Spirit, forsake any allegiance to the prince of this world, and confess loyalty to Christ our heavenly king--we eat and drink the Lord’s Supper in the kingdom of God.

The parable is provoked by a man sitting at a meal with Jesus saying “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread *in the kingdom of God*!” It sounds like a very faithful thing to say, something that would get an “Amen” or two from the other guests at the table. But the interesting thing is that Jesus doesn’t just agree with him, but has something to say about that comment. In fact, the Jesus responded with a parable about people who were caught up in the cares of the world. They were invited by a man to a great banquet. But each person made excuses not to go. None of the excuses seem particularly urgent. They were worldly excuses that all amount to saying, “I can’t come because I’m too busy with the cares of this life, and they are more important.”

This is a message that we constantly need to consider as citizens of heaven. The gifts of this life are from God and are good. But attending to them can become a curse if we allow them to take priority over attending to God and his calling. Jesus says, [**18**](http://biblehub.com/mark/4-18.htm)And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, [**19**](http://biblehub.com/mark/4-19.htm)but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

We have things to attend to in this life and for this life, but they are not eternal. They do not last. So Jesus has much to teach on this. He says, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. According to the parable, these people had property and a wife to attend to. And that’s fine. But it’s not fine when attending to these things get in the way of honoring the Son of Man and attending to his celebratory banquet.

All this to say, remember, there is a kingdom of this world and a kingdom of heaven. You can reside in one while being a citizen of the other, but there is no dual citizenship. You cannot truly be loyal to both, set your heart on serving both, and you certainly cannot fight for both if they are at war. So are God and Satan, and we see in the parable how the cares of this world, property, money, even family are used as excuses to neglect the kingdom of God. But be on your guard. Jesus says, “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

Those whose heart is set on this world are at war with God and his kingdom. And though they do not know what they do, they are under the power of the prince of this world, Satan, until God claims them as his own and makes them a citizen of heaven. This means that there is always going to be conflict between the world and heaven...and that can be a good thing...because it trains us to remember where our true home is.

Our citizenship is in heaven

[**17**](http://biblehub.com/philippians/3-17.htm)Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. [**18**](http://biblehub.com/philippians/3-18.htm)For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. [**19**](http://biblehub.com/philippians/3-19.htm)Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. [**20**](http://biblehub.com/philippians/3-20.htm)But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, [**21**](http://biblehub.com/philippians/3-21.htm)who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Philippians 3