

1 The Celebrity Christ

2 Angelyne

- If you are driving in the Los Angeles area, you might see her as a ubiquitous billboard model who drapes her body over a pink Corvette, or waves to drivers from a pink Cadillac.
- Her name is Angelyne.
- Years ago, she hired an agent to make her famous, and so he plastered her picture on billboards throughout the city.
- But she does not advertise cognac or cigarettes. She is not selling pink Caddys or 'Vettes. As far as we know she doesn't type.
- The only thing she advertises is herself. And now you can purchase her latest video over the Internet.

3 Angelyne

- Angelyne has been a fixture in Hollywood since the 1980s, making appearances in several movies and of course taking up Billboard space on Sunset Blvd for decades.
- On unashamedly promoting one's self, it is said that Britney Spears, Lindsay Lohan, and Paris Hilton could take some pointers from Los Angeles' pink personality Angelyne.
- Angelyne was one of the candidates in the 2003 California recall election, finishing 28th in a field of 135 candidates.
- Her slogan during the campaign was "We've had Gray, we've had Brown, now it's time for some blond and pink."

4 Famous for Being Famous

- We live in a world where you can be famous for being famous.
- Once, not so long ago, one was considered famous only after making
 - a life-changing discovery (Jonas Salk), or
 - after orbiting the earth three times (John Glenn), or
 - after displaying extraordinary talent (Van Cliburn),
- Today you can be a celebrity if you merely spend time with other celebrities, or if you engage in illegal behavior, or if you have no shame (Jerry Springer).

5 Info-trash

- Today many tens of thousands of readers pore over celebrity magazines every month.
- To satisfy this unquenchable thirst for celebrity news, new info-trash rags are born every week.
- It seems Newsmagazines cannot survive without including news on the rich and famous.
- Specialty magazines on everything from cigar smoking to furniture refinishing use celebrities to adorn their covers.

- Why? Because we tend to trust people we like or think are cool, regardless if they know what they're talking about.
- Good thing we don't elect our Presidents that way!

6 People Magazine

- The Time-Life Corporation created People magazine in 1974 as a respectable alternative to tabloid fanfare.
- However, with the success of People magazine's "Most Beautiful People" edition, our culture would never again be satisfied with cover stories about national trends or global affairs.
- As a society we want to hear more about Beyoncé, Jay-Z, and the Kardashians.

7 Jesus' Popularity

- While the celebrities of today are famous because they have hired promoters and agents to promote their gifts and talents, Jesus was celebrated by a relatively small number of followers.
- Even though God had worked all kinds of signs, wonders, and miracles the majority of people questioned his authority.
- In fact, the leaders of Israel said he was demon possessed.
- And when Jesus warned them to "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door," they said, "Leave this place and go somewhere else." (Luke 13:31 NIV)
- In response to this Jesus tells the crowd, "I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"
- This is when Jesus and his disciples leave Jerusalem and go back across the Jordan because not only are they no longer welcomed in Judah, but their lives are at risk as well.
- This is why when Lazarus becomes sick and Jesus and his disciples return to Judah that Thomas says cynically, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." (John 11:16 NIV)

8 The World Hates Jesus

- When Jesus' half brothers were wondering why Jesus was delaying his journey to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus said, "The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that what it does is evil." (John 7:7 NIV)
- At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill?" (John 7:25 NIV)
- "I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word." (John 8:37 NIV)
- "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own." (John 15:18-19 NIV)

- “Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you.” (1 John 3:12–13 NIV)

9 Blessings for Loving the Truth

- “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:10 NIV)
- “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Matthew 5:11–12 NIV)
- “Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.” (Luke 6:22–23 NIV)
- However, on the other hand, “Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.” (Luke 6:26 NIV)

10 Psalm Sunday

- When Jesus rode into Jerusalem and was greeted by the people with shouts of “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” (Psalm 118:25), it wasn’t necessarily a huge crowd of people.
- It was made up of those who really wanted and valued Jesus’ ministry and so welcomed him with expressions of their Messianic hopes.
- Jesus was pleased with them and rebuked the Pharisees who were trying to rebuke them.
- As Jesus says, “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” (Luke 19:40 NIV)

11 King of Israel

- When Jesus’ followers greeted Him with shouts of praise and blessings, they did so because they realized the significances of the event.
- Jesus was fulfilling Zechariah 9:9 and in a subtle way declaring himself to be the King of Israel. Not as a war-waging conqueror wanting to lord it over the people, but one who came in peace.
 - Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
- Jesus would only come to Jerusalem unless he was wanted and welcomed.

12 The Moral to the Story

- This world in which we live, honors gifts, talents, and charismatic personalities, more than it does the truth and people of real virtue.
- Because of this judgment is coming to the earth—even on the rich & famous.
- Nevertheless, for those who see in Jesus the manifold wisdom of God and welcome Him and His word enthusiastically into their lives there will be blessing, peace, and salvation.
- Therefore, if you want things to go well with your life, let us honor the right things.

13 If You Had Only Known

- As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said,
 - “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace — but now it is hidden from your eyes.”
 - “The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls.”
- They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.” (Luke 19:41-44 NIV)

14 Contrast

- In a cruel and violent world, where most people were interested in basic survival, Jesus regularly stirred up enough trouble to risk his safety.
- In a culture where people shamelessly promoted themselves, Jesus told those he healed to “tell no one.”
- He was not swayed by current trends. He was not concerned with money. He had no problem with challenging those in power.
- His ministry was guided, nourished and planned by the only Power that really matters.
- He came not to be famous but to please the one who sent him.

15 Honoring Christ

- Tonight as you go home, I want you to remember that most people—even those who saw the miracles, had no place for Jesus’ words in their lives.
- In other words, the world does not get it. They will always honor the wrong people and wrong things, so don’t be partners with them.
- What the world thinks is cool is merely a celebration of vanity, self, and human accomplishments.
- Therefore, nothing tells more about the condition of our heart than what and who we honor and value.
- So, who are you honoring in your life and would God be pleased?

16 Blessed is He . . .