Occupy Wall Street or Tea Party Rally: Where Would Jesus be in Contemporary American Politics?

Despite the common understanding of the U.S. having a “wall of separation” between the institutions of church and state, religion and politics are inexorably linked. Religious affiliation plays a vital role in shaping citizens’ policy preferences and voting behavior. It seems logical to assume Christians’ political views today would align with those of Jesus, considering his centrality in their religion. This research utilized Jesus’s reported words from the Bible to plot him in America’s current political climate. Then, his views (inferred from his reported word) were compared with those of the “Christian Right.” The key question this research sought to answer was: how consistent are the politics of certain individuals/groups who claim to follow Jesus with his actual moral message?