

This week in my bible reading I came across something interesting in John chapter 17

As I read this text this morning I want us to notice Jesus's references to "The World" in this passage

John 17: 6-16

6. "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me **out of the world**. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.
7. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.
8. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.
9. I pray for them. I am not praying for **the world**, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.
10. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.
11. I will remain **in the world** no longer, but they are still **in the world**, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one.
12. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.
13. "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in **the world**, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.
14. I have given them your word and **the world** has hated them, **for they are not of the world any more** than I am **of the world**.

THEY ARE IN THE WORLD BUT THEY ARE NOT OF THE WORLD (THE INFERENCE IS: THEY ARE NOW LIVING IN A NEW WORLD: "GOD'S WORLD"

15. My prayer is not that you take them out of **the world** but that you protect them from the evil one.
16. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.
17. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.
18. As you sent me into **the world**, I have sent them into **the world**.
19. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.
20. "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,
21. that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that **the world** may believe that you have sent me.

Verse 6:

You have given them to me "Out of this world" From the time we go with Jesus, we go out of this world - We depart for another world

Verse 11

I am leaving this world and they are still in it...

Protect them Father

Protect them from what? Protect them from the World

And the evil that is in it!

Verse 14

I have given them your word and the world hates them?

This is interesting: He is not saying that the people of the world hate them, though some may, He is saying that: "The evil in this world hates them"

Verse 16

Don't take them out of this world but protect them from the evil one.....

Verse 17

Sanctify them: Through YOUR WORD
What sets us apart from this world
Is our knowledge of the Word
And our adherence to the Word
And our obedience to the Word

Jesus prays:

Set them apart from this world
And then send them out into the world
So that others in the world will know

When these men and women came to me, they came out of the world, They are still in this world, but now they belong to another world.

Like Me, they are "Other Worldly"

As a young Christian: One of the most impactful principles I learned came from Deuteronomy 6:23

"He brought us **out** from there, in order to bring us **in**, to give us the land which He had sworn to our fathers."

This was a reference to God bringing His people out of Egypt in order to bring them into the promised land

Egypt is a metaphor for "The World"

And the deliverance of the Hebrews from Egypt is a symbolic reference to our own experience of salvation

In between Egypt and the promised land There was this place called "The wilderness"

The Wilderness had a specific purpose

It was a training ground

A place for transformation

God had one purpose in mind for the Wilderness

It's found in Deuteronomy 8:2-3

- 2 Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.
- 3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Teach them one thing: Live by my word
Do what I say and your life will bear fruit and be blessed

God had gotten them out of Egypt
Now the challenge was to get Egypt out of them

This same principle applies to every Christian who comes to Jesus

We come out of the world into a new world

He brought us out of a life of sin
in order to bring us into a life of righteousness

It's one thing to get out of the world
It's another to get the world out of us

In Exodus 3:8 God says to Moses
So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians

The power of the Egyptians was more than military strength
It was values, customs, education, philosophy, Religion, Images, Language,
politics, and entertainment

Once God got Israel out of Egypt
The process began of getting Egypt out of them

Understand that God wants to take us through a similar process of transformation
deliver us from the power and influence of "This World" and into the grace of a New
World

I am talking now of the values, customs, education, philosophy, Religion, Images,
Language, politics, and entertainment of our American World...

Romans 12:2 says:
Do not be conformed to this world
But be transformed by the renewing of your minds

These two words: CONFORMED and TRANSFORMED

THE LORD IS OUT TO TRANSFORM
THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CONFORMED

This morning let's ponder what the word "Worldly Means"

Worldliness is a problem and it is something to be identified, attacked and conquered in our lives

JESUS SPOKE OF OVERCOMING "THE WORLD"

John 16:33

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Overcome the world?

The influence of world in my life

The power that the world would exercise over me

The effects of world in my past

And it starts by me recognizing and saying:

I am not of this world: I am of another world

Jesus said: "My Kingdom is not of this world"

Let's Look At: 1 John 5:4-5

For everyone born of God overcomes **the world**. This is the victory that has overcome **the world**, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Why does the world need to be overcome?

When Adam and Eve obeyed the voice of the serpent

The authority of this world fell into the hands of the devil

He is now called : "The prince of this world" John 14:30 & 16:11

He is also called: "The god of this world" 2 Corinthians 4:4

The god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Ephesians 6:12 refers to our enemies being: The rulers of the darkness of "this world"

The world has been corrupted by sin:

Look at these references to the world:

- 1 Corinthians 2:6 Speaks of the wisdom of this world
Verses the Wisdom of God (Foolishness)
- 2 Peter 1:4 Speaks of the corruption in the world
- 1 Corinthians 5:31 Speaks of The fashion of this world
- 1 Corinthians 2:12 Speaks of The spirit of the world
The attitudes of the world
- Ephesians 2:2 Speaks of The course of this world
(the direction it is headed – don't go that way)
- Colossians 2:8 and 20 Speaks of the Spiritual Forces of this world

- 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.
- 20 Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules:

JESUS DIED TO RESCUE US FROM THIS EVIL WORLD

Galatians 1:4 NLT

He died for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from [this evil world](#) in which we live.

LET'S NOT DISAPPOINT HIM BY CLINGING TO IT

1 John 2:15-17 NASB

- 15 Do not love **the world** nor the things in the world. If anyone loves **the world**, the love of the Father is not in him.
- 16 For all that is in **the world**, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from **the world**.
- 17 **The world** is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

THIS PASSAGE IS SOMETHING TO MEDITATE ON

Where is the border line between enjoying the things of the world and loving the things of the world?

When am being I self-indulgent and consumed with my own pleasure and unconcerned about the will of God and the needs of others?

I think we can all figure out what
The lusts of the flesh
The lusts of the eyes
And the pride of life are

But are we willing to nip these things in the bud?
And war against them in our own lives?

1 John 2:15-17 MSG

- 15 Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father.
- 16 Practically everything that goes on in the world--wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important--has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him.
- 17 The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out--but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.

WHAT DOES WORLDLY MEAN?

The American Church is hard pressed to figure out what "Worldly" is

So much of what we do and think is worldly
We tend to be "Worldly Christians" (Oxymoron)

And we are mostly unaware of it

We are so comfortable, so interested, so attached, so complacent about this that it almost seems hopeless at times.

But God says:

I have come down to deliver you from the power of the Egyptians, and I say "Lord deliver us from the effects of this world, even the things we like.

I won't give you the 50 point list of what is and isn't worldly but to help you understand let me use this illustration:

In Nashville Tennessee

In the middle of the city is Centennial Park

In the center of this park is an exact replica of "The Parthenon" in Athens built in 1897, supported and dedicated by Andrew Jackson a devout "Mason"

And in the Center of this edifice is the statue of Athena, The goddess of wisdom...Holding "Nike" the goddess of victory in her right hand...

I was going to show you a picture of it
But as I looked at it on line I thought better of it
Don't want it in this building

Do you think this is just Good clean fun?

The god of this world: Has fashioned the gods of this world

America is a Greco/Roman Culture in her Values:

The gods of the Greeks and the Romans?

Replicas of Supersized, superhuman persons
With superpowers, super-intellecets
And super egos

They represented the values of the people

Those Values? The gods of this world

Beauty
Strength, Power, and Conquest
Wealth
Intellect
Pleasure
Talent

In such a world

Every little kid longs to be a supersized, superhero, with superpowers and a super ego....And to have beauty and strength and wealth and intellect and all the pleasure he can get....

You want to know what worldly is?

You figure it out
Can you see where we get a lot of our values?

The gods of America are:

Sports Figures

Music Stars

Actors

Multi-Millionaires

And the gods are behaving badly, why shouldn't we?

Lust of the eyes, The Lusts of the flesh, The Pride of life

The world's system appeals to our lower nature

This is why Jesus is praying for our protection

At a national seminar of Christian leaders, the statistical annalist George Gallup said, "Our studies have shown that there is very little difference in ethical behavior between churchgoers and those who are not active religiously...The levels of lying, cheating, immorality and stealing are remarkable similar in both groups.

We are in the grey lands between the Worlds
Out of Egypt, but camped in "The Wilderness"

It's time to set our hearts on being overcomers

"But (as the cheerleaders say)

You've got to want it to win it and we want it more!

Being aware of worldliness in our lives is half the battle

And we need to accept that, as Christians we are "Aliens". We are from will be from another world "Out of this world"

Refuse to love and worship the gods of this world

- Quit trying to fit in, be accepted
 - And let's help each other to get out
 - There is a better life
- Quit worrying about what they will think of you and worry about what God thinks And embrace the values of word and God's world

Yes there is a price to pay: I won't deny it...And the Bible doesn't deny it...

John 15:18-21

18. "If **the world** hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.
19. If you belonged to **the world**, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to **the world**, but I have chosen you **out of the world**. That is why the world hates you
20. Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.
21. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me.

Are you ready for that?

A number of years ago our friend: John Mulindi from Uganda was speaking in Nashville and he said:

America is the world's superpower. We have superpower over the entire world

But we do not have superpower in our churches

And the reason is "We are still worshipping the gods of this world, So there are layers of darkness over the church in America that are quenching the Spirit of prayer

The Lord is trying to get a few people to pay the price of breaking out And to literally "Tear down" the altars of the god's of this world

And see what God will do...

How about us? How about me?

"Step out of this world?"

And heed the call?

Jesus is praying for us right now

Let's respond...