

John (Week 36)
“Jesus vs The World”
John 15:18-27 (NIV)

We’re currently in a series going verse by verse through the book of John, so by the very end of the year you’ll be a book of John genius

Every author of every book in the Bible wrote for a specific purpose, and John makes his purpose very clear in our series verse John 20:30-31, he says:

“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name”

John 20:30-31 NIV

As we’re reading John’s gospel account, we’re seeing how each hand-picked detail, inspired by the Holy Spirit, is pointing to Jesus being exactly Who He claimed to be and these details help us to believe in Him if we don’t already, and if we do, they help us to trust Him fully and surrender completely

“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. 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. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’ ‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning’”

John 15:18-27 NIV

If you're taking notes, point 1 is:

1. You Do Not Belong to the World

Everything is, or is becoming contrary to Jesus and it's uncomfortable

We're seeing people celebrate what God calls evil and people hating what God calls good

There's this phrase that's becoming more and more popular and everytime i see it on a post or hear someone say it, it blows my mind, and not in a good way

The phrase is, "there's no hate like christian love"

"there's no hate like christian love"

That is probably the craziest thing you could ever say

Of all the wild statements you could make in this world, that gotta take the cake

People that use this kind of language are absolutely ignorant to what christian love is

They think if you don't affirm everything they think say and do, you hate them

I don't even affirm everything I think say or do

You know what christian love is?

It's picking up a cross, carrying it after being beaten and mocked, willingly putting my hands out to be nailed to this cross like a painting to a wall, and watching people cheer KNOWING i could call upon legions of angels to wipe everything and everyone out

That's what Jesus did

Knowing He could snap that cross like a twig at any moment, He stayed on there and gave up His life because you and i need a savior

Christian love is loving your enemy, loving those who want nothing but harm to come your way

Praying for those who persecute you, doing good for those who at the very extreme of it want to kill you

Could you do that? Because that's Christian love and there's nothing like it

You know what Christian love is? Forgiving you for your wrongs just as Jesus forgave a terrible sinner like me

and yet, people say there's no hate, like Christian love

The persecution we face is uncomfortable but we get the luxury of being uncomfortable here in the United States

Pick a spot somewhere across the ocean and you'll probably end up in a place where it's much more than uncomfortable to be a Christian

People are kidnapped from their families and never seen again all because they say they love Jesus

People are disowned from their families, losing everyone they love in one shot all because they wanna follow Jesus

Churches are burned, attacked, and Christians are publicly executed all across the world and yet *here*, we get scared to tell our friend about Jesus

People are spreading the Good News of Jesus in places where sharing that Good News can cost your life, but here we're scared people won't agree with us

I'm not saying this to make you feel like your discomfort isn't valid, I'm just saying it doesn't compare to what our brothers and sisters are going through and yet they're still following Jesus' commission to spread the Gospel to every corner of the earth

Everything is, or is becoming, contrary to Jesus and it's uncomfortable, but thank God that right now it's just uncomfortable and not life-threatening

Persecution comes in many forms, from being targeted with words to being targeted with a gun, but the reason is all the same,

this world **hates** Jesus

He said

"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. 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. Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted **me**, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed **my** teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of **my name**, for they do not know the one who sent **me**."

John 15:18-21 NIV

This world hates Jesus but who's behind a lot of what this world does?

Satan

Look at Ephesians 2:1-2

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of **this world** and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient."

Ephesians 2:1-2 NIV

This is a spiritual battle that often manifests in the physical through persecution

I know i gave a global perspective but let's bring it back to co op city in the Bronx, let's make it more relatable to our current life

Maybe you'll have a boss who just won't stop writing you up because they know you're a christian, maybe you have friends that make fun of your faith whenever they get the chance to, maybe your family rejected you because you started following Jesus, and while not as common here, maybe someone did physically attack you for talking about the good news

All of these situations are super uncomfortable and it never feels good to be rejected or made fun of because of what you believe, especially if it's the truth

But my brother my sister in Christ, i want you to know that while the world may hate you for your faith in Jesus, know that He is with you in it and through it

Look at Acts chapter 9 verses 1-5

This is already after Jesus ascended into Heaven and commissioned the believers to spread the Gospel

It says:

"Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting...'” Acts 9:1-5 NIV

Notice how Jesus tells Paul you are persecuting ME

Jesus takes your situation personal and He is present in it as He walks with you through it

And I know some of us are just kind of baffled, like if Jesus is all powerful, and He's walking with me through persecution, why is it that I am going through it?

Can't Jesus just solve the issue?

Can't Jesus just stop them from hating me?

That's a valid question, why does Jesus allow His people to go through suffering because of His name?

Well i can tell you that only He can fully understand and explain that to you, and we may not grasp the entirety of it on this side of Heaven, but I can give you answers from His Word that He gave us

First answer is in our own text for today, John 15 verse 20

"Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also..."

John 15:20 NIV

Check out Matthew 16:24

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'"

Matthew 16:24 NIV

Luke 14:27

"And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

Luke 14:27 NIV

Maybe it's part of being a disciple. If Jesus did it, we are expected to do it because He didn't have to and yet still did

It's part of being more like Him

Second answer is in John 15:12-14

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.”

John 15:12-14 NIV

Luke 6:32-36 NIV

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Luke 6:32-36 NIV

Maybe it’s to show the unique and unmatched love of God so that whoever is persecuting you might come to know Him through that love

The third answer is in Isaiah 55:8-9

“‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ declares the Lord. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.’” Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV

Maybe it’s for reasons that we may not understand now

I have a little sister who most of you know, Alanis, and there have been so many times that she asks me random questions

She’ll start with one question, and just keep asking why to my answer

Lets say she asks me why is grass green

Well because there's something in it that absorbs all colors of light except green so the green is reflected back at our eyes

Why?

Because that's how plants get their energy, from the sun

Why? Because they don't eat food like we do

Why? Man I don't know, that's what God wanted

Or sometimes she'll ask me questions that if I answered she wouldn't understand anyway

Sometimes we can be like that with God

Why this, and why that, and sometimes there's questions that we wouldn't even understand the answer to anyway

God's ways and thoughts are above and beyond our own and we can only understand bits and pieces of it, but Romans 8:28 says:

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 NIV

So we don't have to worry when persecution comes because it's part of being a disciple, and by our love people will come to know Jesus, and through this process He is with us, working for our good, in ways we may not understand yet

I'd say that's a pretty good answer

Let's jump back into our chapter, chapter 15 continuing in verse 22

"If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is,

they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'"

John 15:22-25 NIV

Point two for your notes:

2. Sometimes Seeing Isn't Believing

Jesus said

"...As it is, they have seen, and **yet** they have hated both me and my Father" John 15:24 NIV

Sometimes seeing isn't believing

We often think, if God just gives me this one sign, or does this one thing, or makes this one thing happen, THEN i'll believe, or for my believers already, THEN i'll fully trust Him

But who here has had an encounter with God and still has doubted or disobeyed Him since then?

Our walk with God takes more than just seeing,

2 Corinthians 5:7

"For we walk by faith, not by sight" 2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV

Our walk with God also takes humility

We need faith to walk on a road we can't see, and humility to choose His road over the one we've built

Everyone could use more faith, and everyone can be more humble, so we all got work to do

You don't think you got work to do, i just found some for you, work on that humility

It's not enough to just see because someone who just sees is a spectator

You gotta get in the game with the team and do what the team does to really be a part of it

point 3

3. The Advocate

Let's read the last two verses of chapter 15, verses 26-27

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.” John 15:26-27 NIV

See at the start we talked about persecution and Jesus being with us, just now we said we need faith and humility to walk with God, but we can't do any of this, without the advocate, the Holy Spirit

What is it that we need most when we go through times of struggle and persecution?

The Holy Spirit who will testify about Jesus

When the storm comes and you can't see in front of you, you need a reminder that Jesus is in the boat with you

That Jesus commands the waves and the winds and that He is your source of hope, He is your source of strength

The Holy Spirit will testify of Jesus as He brings scripture back to your memory,

I know that in all things God works for my good and I have been called according to his purpose

The same Spirit who rose Christ from the dead lives in me

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil because He is with me

The Holy Spirit will testify of Jesus as He reminds you of His faithfulness, of every time you thought you wouldn't make it but you did, of every time you thought He wouldn't do it but He did, of every time you were walled in but God busted through those walls and made a way where there was no way

In the persecution and in this walk we have confidence and assurance because the Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus and reminds us of Who He Is and what He's done

Now it's our job to do the same

Jesus tasks His disciples, "and you also must testify"

Why? Paul says in Romans 10:13-15

"for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

Romans 10:13-15 NIV

Come on, who wants to have some beautiful feet??

verse 17

"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ."

Romans 10:17 NIV

How will your friends come to know God if they don't hear the message?

How will your family know the goodness of God if not by hearing?

How will that person you always take the bus with every morning know that God can heal their broken heart if not through the message of the Gospel?

But how will they hear if you don't preach?

If we have such an awesome gift as the Holy Spirit, who testifies about Jesus, why wouldn't we wanna share that with others and testify about Jesus so they too can receive the Holy Spirit?

ALTAR TIME