

Being A Witness to a World of Hate Full of Guilt

John 15:18-27 ¹⁸ “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’ ²⁶ “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

❖ Recap

- We have covered some wonderful stuff thus far in the book of John.
- **Let us Remember again His purpose for writing this book**
 - John 20:31 ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
 - **So Practically this means good things for you...**
 - If you are without salvation this morning you can come to this book
 - If you are seeking Christ, you can come to this book...
 - And this book is written specifically so that people will have eternal life
 - By believing in Jesus
 - **For the Christian this morning....**
 - I say... invest in people... invest your time and knowledge in helping others come to know
 - About how wonderful Jesus is...
 - How wonderful it is to have your sins forgiven and taken away to be remembered no more
 - How wonderful it is to know that when I take my last breath I will not taste death
 - But I will enter into heaven immediately
 - **This book is for you...**
 - This book is to help you lead other people to Jesus Christ...
 - So they may Believe that He is the Christ the Son of God...
 - ◆ And that through believing they may have life in HIS name...
- **Toward the End of Chapter 13 Judas leaves to betray him..**
 - So from that point on
 - Through ch 14 and so far here in 15
 - His audience is 11 disciples...
 - And He is sharing with them so very intimate and important stuff...
- **We should see these verses as highly important to our walk with Jesus...**
 - At the beginning of 15 he tells them that He is like a vine
 - And we are the branches...
 - And we must remain in Him if we are going to bear fruit...
 - And we see him say that His friends will bear fruit...
 - Their fruit will remain
 - **And those who do not bear fruit will be taken away and thrown into the fire...**
 - The reason for this is that they are not connected to the vine,

- Therefore unable to bear fruit for God...
- Because He is the source of our fruit bearing...

❖ Introduction

- **Today let us remember these words are Jesus words to his closest friends...**
 - To those 11 he calls friends...
- **But I hope there is a drawing for those of you here today that may not have peace with God yet**
 - Those of you who have never had the Holy Spirit come in to your life
 - And cause you to be Born Again...
 - There is a message here for you...
- **We are going to see just a few things here this morning....**
 - I am going to try to make them brief and simple to understand
 - so you will remember them when you leave....
- **Outline**
 - **Just Three Words...** Hated, Guilty, and Witness
 - Hated: Hated By The World
 - Guilty: Guilty Because Jesus Gave Them Proof
 - Witness: We will be Witnesses with the Help of the Holy Spirit

❖ Hated By The World

- ¹⁸ "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.... ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'
- **Lots of Hatred going on here right?**
 - Doesn't take a PHD in theology to see that Jesus is saying the world will hate Him...
 - And they will also hate His followers...
 - **How were they treated?**
 - Jesus was abused greatly and mocked...
 - He was put through a fake trial even though He did nothing wrong...
 - Was beaten and then crucified...
 - His disciples were hunted like wild animals all their days...
 - Emperors hated them...
 - They were boiled, beaten, imprisoned, crucified and many other terrible things...
 - **Before we go too much further... lets define these two words used a lot here...**
 - Hate and World....
 - If We are not specific in our defining of these two words
 - Then I may be saying one thing while you are thinking another...
 - ◆ When I say world... some of you may start thinking of a globe
 - ◆ Some of you may think of everyone living on the earth
 - ◆ Some may think of the worst people of the world, or the government...
 - ◆ Kids... you guys may start thinking about Mars or Jupiter...
- **World:** In its original language, this word is pronounced kosmos
 - And it has a number of meanings.... It could mean the total of all the people on the earth
 - It could mean something that is ordered and well arranged

- But in this case it is in reference to the group of people living that are currently opposed to God
 - The context makes this very clear...
- **Hate:** this word is pronounced *misos*
 - **It also has a number of nuances to what it means...**
 - And I think of it in the same way that there are different levels of love...
 - ◆ There are different levels of hate...
 - **The word actually means all of these things...:**
 - It could mean: to detest and despise something... have a strong feeling of hatred toward it...
 - ◆ Like me and certain reality shows like The Jersey Shore... not the people
 - It has the meaning to be indifferent toward something
 - To not choose or to reject...
 - To prefer less or to love less
 - **I give you these terms because I want you to understand what He means by this...**
 - Because you may look around and think... Well... the world doesn't treat me that way
 - The world around me does not seem to have this hatred toward me as a Christian, therefore:
 - ◆ Jesus didn't know what He was talking about
- **When Jesus is Saying this, He is addressing His disciples...**
 - And we do see a strong hatred toward them from here forward...
 - But there are a number of cues throughout John that tells us...
 - When He is speaking to them...
 - HE is speaking to us as well...
 - So I do not want you to miss that...
 - Number 1 that He is speaking to them, but this also applies to His followers throughout History
- **And as we see Hatred comes in all different shapes and sizes...**
 - One person of the world may want to just kill you because you say Jesus is God
 - Another person may reject what you are saying...

➤ **Back to the verses**

- **Jesus was hated First**
 - ¹⁸ "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.
- **The World Loves its Own**
 - ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own;
- **The Disciples Were Chosen Out of the World...Therefore, they will be hated too**
 - but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.
 - So, they were once a part of the group that rejected and rebelled against God...
 - And so were we... Right... This is why salvation is so great
- **Remember: The Servant is not greater than His Master**
 - ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.'
- **His Followers Will Be persecuted...**
 - ' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours....
 - Persecuted here may mean: to chase after, or pursue, or to harass or mistreat
 - **2 Timothy 3:12** ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,
 - In some way or another the Christian will be persecuted...
 - Maybe by prison or beatings or shunning or rejection or mocking...
 - **The more we live like Jesus... The more we reach out to the word with His Gospel**
 - The more likely we are to be persecuted... and the heavier it will be...

- Also the strength of hatred in the world will dictate the strength of persecution

➤ **Draws a Line in the Sand: Whoever hates me, Hates my Father Also...**

- ²³ **Whoever hates me hates my Father also.**
- To be clear here... He is saying... Anyone that hates (rejects, prefers less, despises) me...
- And When He says ME... He is referring to Who He Really Is...
 - Not just the name Jesus...
 - Not the Good guy only Jesus...
 - Not the Jesus with the Wise Sayings...
 - Not the Jesus That was a Good man that died as an example of how to Live...
- **He Means Jesus...**
 - The Son of God...
 - Who said He was equal to the Father...
 - Who calls Himself the I Am... The same name as God
 - The One who calls Himself the Light of the World...
 - The bread of Heaven
 - The One that we could eat of, and never be hungry or thirsty again...
 - The Jesus that gives eternal Life and makes it so we will never taste Death...
 - The Jesus that says.... I am the way the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father but by me!
- That is who He is referring to...

➤ **Whoever hates this Jesus... Also hates the Father...**

- So, for all other religions, He is saying... You can say you love God... Love the Father of all mankind...
- But if you do not love me... You do not love Him...
- The God you are loving is no God at all, rather He is a demon disguised as God
- And you are worshipping Him...

➤ **After Examination of Jesus : The World Hates Him**

- ²⁴ **...but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father.** ²⁵ **But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'**
- They saw Him... and hated Him...
- And HE says it was to fulfill the Law written...
 - And this is written as prophecy in Psalm 35 and Psalm 69
- So as we see Jesus comes to His own people and they reject Him
- And HE comes to rest of the people of the world... and they reject Him...
- **John tells us this early on...**
 - John 1:10-11 ¹⁰ **He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.** ¹¹ **He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.**

➤ **Application is Simple:**

- How have you responded to Jesus...
- With Love or Hate
- With belief or unbelief
- With acceptance or rejection
- As something you prefer less than other things...
- **Believer: Rejoice when the World is against you... Rejoice because this is how they treated your Master...**
 - Expect it... Do not let it turn you from the faith...
 - You were not promised earthly treasures... You were promised persecution in this world
 - And eternal life in the next...

❖ Guilty: Guilty Because Jesus Gave Them Proof

- ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin..... ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin,
- **So Jesus explains they will do these things to His followers because they do not know God**
 - ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.
- **They are guilty because He gave them plenty of proof:**
 - ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.....
 - **He says He came and spoke to them... and they did not listen while He was here...**
 - Then His words were written down for people... And many still do not listen...
 - **He says He did works that no one else did...**
 - ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin,
 - He healed the lame, blind, leprosy, and demon possessed
 - He fed thousands out of thin air
 - He walked on water
 - He died and rose up from the grave
- **They have no excuse now:**
 - He says... If I had not done all this, they would not be guilty... But now they are...
 - **Romans 1:19-21** ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
- **So... Please Do not fall into this Category...**
 - Do not look for reason not to trust Him...
 - Give your life to Him...
 - **Believers... Live like He did... Live like the disciples did...**
 - You also have no excuse for how you live your life...
 - Because not only has He revealed Himself to You...
 - He has placed His Spirit within you to lead you and guide you...

❖ Witness: We Will be Witnesses with the Help of the Holy Spirit

- ²⁶ "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.
- **When the Helper comes...**
 - The Holy Spirit...
 - And we know from multiple places in the Bible...
 - This Spirit doesn't just come to the earth...
 - He comes to live inside of us...
 - We see it in Ezekiel, and Jesus just said it here in John...
- **He is called the Spirit of Truth...**
 - So He is full of truth, and shows us what the truth is...
 - And He comes from the Father... He proceeds from the Father...
 - Jesus also had come from the Father...

- **He Will Bear Witness about me...**
 - So the Spirit of Truth will tell the world the truth about Jesus...
 - And how will HE do this...
 - By revealing the truth to those who believe
 - And being with them and teaching them and helping them understand His Word...
- **The Spirit Will Then Work through us... to tell the world...**
 - ²⁷ **And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.**
 - So... because the Spirit lives in Us...
 - **And because we know Jesus... Because we love Him...**
 - Because we have not rejected but believed in Him
 - Because we have preferred Him MOST over all the things this world can offer...
 - **We will bear witness...**
 - Meaning... we will tell people about Jesus...
 - We will make an argument for the truth of Jesus as the Son of God that takes away Sins...
 - We will plead with people to believe
 - We will pray for them and instruct them in the word...
 - So, they also will be chosen out of the World...
- **If you are not working toward, or actively trying to bear witness of Jesus...**
 - By how you live AND what you say to those around you.....AND not OR
 - Then you are not bearing fruit...
 - **And remember from the first verses of 15 what happens to the limbs that bear no fruit...**
 - Let me say this: Our fruit bearing is not what gets us salvation...
 - Rather... it is a sign that we have been saved...
 - It is proof that we are His... We will be unable to not bear fruit...
 - ◆ In the same way the apple tree must bear apples...

❖ **Invitation:**

- **Awesome News:**
 - Those in the world, do not have to remain there
 - Remember He says:
 - I chose you out of the world...
- He is calling you today... out of the world
 - Out of preferring something else more
 - Out of rejecting Jesus
 - Out of despising a faith that tells you to walk away from the sins you love
 - And to serve Jesus