

The World Hates You

Gospel of John, Part LV

John 15:18-16:4a

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I. Final Discourses

- 15:1-11 – The Relationship of Believers to Christ
- 15:12-17 – The Rel. of Believers to One Another
- 15:18-16:4 – The Rel. of Believers to the World
- 16:5-16 – The Rel. of Believers to the Holy Spirit

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
 - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
 - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
 - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
 - A. Introduction: He knew His hour had come (13:1)
 - B. Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Departure (13:2-17:26)
 - C. Jesus Departs this world to the Father (18:1-20:29)
 - D. Conclusion: Purpose of the Gospel (20:30-31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

Though John's Gospel contains glorious promises for the future progress of the Gospel, Jesus' death and resurrection have not automatically transformed the fallen nature of men. By nature, we remain children of wrath. Romans 8:7 reminds us that *"the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be"* (8:7).

II. The Church and the World

- A. The world hates those who represent Christ (18-21 cf. 13:16; Mt 10:24)

Jesus insists that the basic reason that the world hates His disciples is because the disciples belong to Him. Here *"the world"* refers to the mass of humanity that is set against God and His ways. The *"world"* is the kingdom of darkness, those men who are in bondage to the Evil One and who are driven by ungodly motivations. The world does not know God and opposes His purposes.

- B. The world's hatred is inexcusable (22-25 cf. Ps 35:19; 69:4; Rom 1:20)

This ignorance of God is inexcusable. This is true generally because of God's revelation of Himself in creation (cf. Rom 1:20) but it is especially true now that God has taken on human flesh in the Person of Jesus. Having heard the words (22) and beheld the deeds (24) of Christ, unbelief is the more inexcusable

- C. The church must continue to bear witness by the Spirit (26-27)

The opposition of the world must not silence the Church. Jesus will pour out His Spirit at Pentecost to testify of Jesus. He will testify through the apostles themselves. Christ built His Church upon the foundation of the apostles' witness. Augustine remarks, *"Because [the Spirit] will speak, you [apostles] will also speak – he [will speak] in your hearts, you [will speak] in words – he by inspiration, you by sounds"* (Bruner, 912).

- D. The church must not be surprised by persecution (16:1-4a)

Jesus warns the apostles lest they be surprised by opposition. We mustn't suppose that the promise of the worldwide expanse of the Kingdom of God will be realized without opposition from the kingdom of darkness.

III. Application

A. Identifying the World (Gen 3:15)

The word _____ comes from the Greek word *ekklēsia*, which means the “called out ones.” The Church consists of all those whom God has called out of the mass of humanity unto Himself. The biblical description of our condition as human beings is that we are basically _____: *we serve the wrong Lord*: we serve various rebel kingdoms rather than the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Christ Jesus.

God has established an _____, a sharp divide, in human history between His own people and those who remain in the world. This *antithesis* is a result of God’s grace and mercy. God could have left all to perish in unbelief. However, in mercy, God determined to rescue His people. We witness this *antithesis* immediately after the Fall. God reveals His mercy in what is called the *proto-Euangelion*, the first preaching of the Gospel. God declares: “*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel*” (Gen 3:15).

B. Offending the World (2 Cor 6:14-18)

The world hates the Church because we belong to Christ and to the Father. What offends the world is not primarily our behavior but our _____. The world hates God and, because we are loyal to God, the world hates us.

“The world is a society of rebels, and therefore finds it hard to tolerate those who are in joyful allegiance to the king to whom all loyalty is due... Former rebels who have by the grace of the king been won back to loving allegiance to their rightful monarch are not likely to prove popular with those who persist in rebellion” (D.A. Carson, 525).

This hatred is according to God’s design; it too is a result of God’s mercy. It is God who says to the serpent, “*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed...*” God places the enmity there. So Paul writes to the Corinthians:

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.”

C. The Hypocrisy of the World

The world will even use the name of God to justify their opposition to those who truly serve God. But their supposed “divine service” is diabolical. Jesus’ words remind us that the world often invades the Church and gains control of her machinery and uses that machinery to persecute God’s people. Don’t be deceived.

IV. Conclusion