

61. Jesus Explained Why the World May Hate Us

We saw in our last topic that we want to show our physical and spiritual children how to carry out the command of Jesus by learning to show the love of Christ to other Christians. We saw that will only happen as we show our children by example what it means to yield our lives to the Lord. In our topic today, we are going to see that Jesus went on to explain to the disciples why it is possible that the world may hate us.

Jesus wanted the disciples to understand why the world would hate them (John 15:18-20). We also need to understand this hatred of the world in our own lives. Jesus warned the disciples that the world would hate them. However, Jesus said that the world hated Jesus before it hated them. As Christians, we can expect to experience opposition and even persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12-13 says, “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.” We see that evil men and false religious leaders have been deceived by Satan and will pass that same deception on to others. Jesus explained in John 8:44, “‘You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.’” Evil men and false teachers have been deceived by Satan.

In contrast, Jesus told the disciples that if they were a part of the world that the world would love them because the world loves its own. Psalm 1:1 says, “Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.” This verse tells us three things about the people of the world: they are controlled by the counsel of the ungodly; they walk in the path of sinners; they may begin to mock with the scornful because they have rejected the Lord and His Word. Jesus said that the reason that the world would hate His followers is due to the fact that we have been chosen out of the world and no longer follow the way of the world.

Jesus had taught the disciples that the people of the world would treat them the same way that they treated Jesus. Jesus had said earlier that evening in John 13:16, “‘Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.’” Now, Jesus repeated that same thought a second time. Jesus wanted all followers to understand how the world will treat us. If people persecuted Jesus, they will also persecute us. If they attend carefully to the teachings of Jesus and obey them, they will respond in the same way to us as we teach the Word of God. Those who listen to the Word of God will also listen to us.

However, Jesus went on to speak more about those who were rejecting Him. John 15:21-25 says, “‘But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But *this happened* that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, “They hated Me without a cause.’”” In these verses, we see that the real problem of those

who hate Jesus is unbelief.

Jesus explained the real key to understanding the hatred of those who reject Jesus. Jesus said that this hatred is based on the fact that those who hate do not know the Father who sent Him. Jesus had told the Pharisees in John 8:43-45, ““Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.”” The Pharisees were not able to hear the Word with understanding because they did not know the Father. This is explained by 1 Corinthians 2:14 which says, “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.” Those without Christ in their lives cannot understand spiritual truth.

Jesus said that the Jewish religious leaders had no excuse for their unbelief because of the fact that He had come and spoken to them personally. This is a key to understanding the rejection of Jesus by the religious leaders. Throughout history, people have rejected God. However, John 1:14 says, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” The difference between these Jewish religious leaders and people throughout history was the fact that they had heard and seen Jesus personally and had still chosen to reject Him. In fact, the particular event that caused them to begin to plot the death of Jesus was the resurrection of Lazarus. Right after his resurrection, John 11:47 says, “Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, ‘What shall we do? For this Man works many signs.’” A few minutes after the council gathered, John 11:53 says, “Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.” That is why they had no excuse for their sin. They were forced to see that Jesus was God but chose to reject Him anyway.

Jesus said that the hatred of the religious leaders toward Him was also a hatred of His Father as well. Jesus had shown that He was God by doing the works that no other man in history had done. John 20:30-31 says, “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” Many of these signs were seen by the religious leaders as well as the disciples. However, each time that Jesus performed another sign, the religious leaders became more determined to destroy Him. These works showed that Jesus is God and so the religious leaders showed their hatred for both Jesus and the Father.

This was actually a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Psalm 35:19 says, “Let them not rejoice over me who are wrongfully my enemies; nor let them wink with the eye who hate me without a cause.” Then, Psalm 69:4 says, “Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; they are mighty who would destroy me, *being* my enemies wrongfully; though I have stolen nothing, I *still* must restore *it*.” In both of these passages, David wrote about the hatred that He experienced. However, we see that God allowed David to experience this hatred in his own life because it was the plan of God to show an even greater fulfillment in the life of Jesus as He experienced the hatred of the religious leaders. Jesus was the promised descendant of David

and He experienced a much greater hatred than David had ever faced and that hatred included the Father.

Jesus knew that the disciples and many later followers would experience a similar hatred against them because this hatred would really be against Jesus and the Father. As a result, Jesus gave a wonderful promise in John 15:26-27, ““But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”” Jesus had mentioned to the disciples earlier that evening that He was going to send the Holy Spirit to be their Helper. Here, we see that Jesus explained to the disciples how He would help them when they experienced hatred.

Jesus reminded the disciples that He had promised that He would send the Helper to them and to all Christians from the Father. We see a very important ministry of the Holy Spirit in relation to hatred in these verses. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth and will testify of Jesus. Jesus explained this statement more fully just a few minutes later. John 16:8-11 says, ““And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”” Here, we see that the Holy Spirit convicts and convinces those who are not Christians of three things.

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would help us to be witnesses of Jesus. First, the Holy Spirit convinces the world of the sin of unbelief. Second, the Spirit of truth convinces those who have not repented and placed their faith in Jesus yet that Jesus is the One who is righteous and without sin. This is very important because of the fact that Jesus is in heaven and the world cannot see Him. However, the Holy Spirit convinces the world of the fact that Jesus is the Righteous One who could and did pay the penalty for sin because He is the One who is without sin. Third, the Holy Spirit convinces the world of the fact that Satan was judged by the payment of Jesus for sin and that those who continue to follow Satan will also share in that judgment.

This means that we need to learn how we work with the Holy Spirit so that the Holy Spirit is able to convince the world of these things. Romans 10:17 says, ““So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”” We work with the Holy Spirit by sharing the Word of God and that allows Him to convince people still lacking repentance and faith of their sin of unbelief, of the fact that Jesus is the Righteous One, and of the fact that those who continue to follow Satan will share in his judgment. We want to help our physical and spiritual children come to a full understanding of the fact that the Holy Spirit convicts as we share the Word. John 6:44 tells us that the Father draws as we share the Word of God. Jesus said that He came to seek and to save the lost. We want to show our children the importance of sharing the Word and not our own opinions. May the Lord richly bless you as you show your children these things by your example.