

## He Said What Part 9

The World Hates You

*John 15:18-25*

*Memory Verses: John 15:19*

### MANUSCRIPT

#### Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

For the last year as we've covered the Gospels and over the course of this series we've seen many shocking statements from the mouth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; "Let the dead bury the dead, hate your mother and your father, I have not come to bring peace but a sword of division, I have not come for the righteous but sinners, take up your cross daily, sell all you that you have, you must lose your life to save it, the last will be first and the first will be last, and you must be a slave." If I didn't know better I would think that Jesus is just trying to be controversial, but he isn't. He is in fact saying exactly what he means. Though he has been gentle, patient, kind, loving, and hospitable to all he has encountered and all who have followed him, at some point you have to cut through the formalities and get to the heart of the matter, and the cold hard truth about Christianity is that it is most definitely going to cost you something to follow Christ and be his disciple! What has it cost you? If the answer is nothing, then you may not be a follower of Jesus Christ!

And today we come to our final shocking statement in this series, and after all we've heard, it's not all that shocking; "the world hates you." Wow. The world hates me? That's a lot to handle. I've had people tell me that they hate me before, and it hurt at the time, but I got over it. But now you are telling me that the whole world hates me? I don't understand, I thought people were generally good and that everyone was all about loving each other. Listen, yes, there are things in this world that are beautiful and fun; yes, I'm sure you have friends and family that love you and care for you; yes, your church family loves you and cares for you, but make no mistake, regardless of how it may seem, outside of the family of God; outside of the church, the world hates you because it hates our Lord. **John 15:18-25** makes this abundantly clear.

Why does the world hate us? Because this world is not our home. We are refugees in a foreign land. We long for another home. Why does the world hate us? Because we have rejected their gods for the one true God; a god which they also hate. Why does the world hate us? Because we have rejected their ways for the words and will of our God. And lastly, why does the world hate us? Because it has no other choice. And, I know that no one wants to be hated; and I know that the fact that the world hates us might make you sad, depressed, or even angry, but I assure you... **It is eternally more important to be loved by God and**

**hated by the world rather than adored by the world and judged by God.**

#### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see here is that... **The World Hates You Because You Are Not A Citizen Of It's Kingdom.** It's a rare thing for someone to unconditionally take in and care for a stranger without reservation. Even after time, if their background, history, or motives remain a mystery they can be seen as an outsider. Some of you have lived your whole lives in the Danville area. I've only lived here for 6 and half years, and I can tell you from experience, people still will say to me, "you ain't from around here are ya." I always respond with, "no but I lived in the south my whole life." And they are like, "well that don't mean a hill of beans buckaroo... this here's Danville, and Danville, as you may know, was the last capital of the confederacy. So it don't get no more south than that!" Okay, I get it, Danville knows it's own. And I would be a little offended, feeling like an outsider, if I hadn't been privy to some of yall's conversations. I'll be out with my D-group at a restaurant and someone will come up to Chris Alderson, a Danvilian if there ever was one, and they'll be having a conversation and they'll say to him, "well, that's cause you ain't from around here." And ill be like, what? Yes he is, born and bred. That guy is pure Danville. And Chris will, as straight faced as can be, agree with him, "you're right, I'm from Ringold." \*SMH You guys crack me up! The point is simple, people know when you are an outsider and you don't really belong to the tribe. Well, I hope you get where I'm going with this. If you are a Christian, you don't belong to this world, you don't belong to the people of this world... you are an outsider, and, as they say in the movies, this world don't take too kindly to outsiders.

**Verse 19** says that you are not of this world. Okay, then where am I from? **Philippians 3:20** tells us. Our citizenship is in Heaven. We are most definitely outsiders; strangers, sojourners, refugees living in a foreign country. But it gets worse, you aren't just an outsider, but you are also a deserter and traitor to the world you reside in. Look again at **vs. 19** in its entirety. At one time you were in and of this world but then Jesus chose you out from it and you changed your citizenship. You were a citizen of this world but now you are a citizen of Heaven who still lives in this world... and that's dangerous territory! Listen, I love America. Even with all its problems, I still love it, and if someone who was born here, raised here, who prospered here, were to get mad and up and change their citizenship to some godforsaken place like, I don't know, France, well that would tick me off. Okay? But what if they wanted to be a citizen of France but instead of moving to France they stayed in my neighborhood and on their front porch they put up a French flag. And every day that French flag was just there, waving in my face... woooo buddy, now we gonna have us a problem.

Paul speaks a lot about the privileges of Roman citizenship. For

instance, as a citizen of Rome, you couldn't be judged without a trial. As a citizen of America we have all kinds of rights as well, but if we were to revoke that citizenship, by say, becoming a traitor, then we would lose those privileges. **The kingdom of this world works the same way. As long as you are a citizen of the kingdom of this world and as long as you act worldly in the ways of this world, then this world will afford you certain privileges. It will accept you, take you in, protect you, and make sure that there is a place in society for you. But as soon as you denounce your citizenship of this world, and become an outsider you lose the privileges and protection of it. And as soon as you become a traitor living on foreign soil you become an enemy of the state and you must be taken down. When you accepted Christ as your savior you lost your citizenship to this world and became an enemy of the state.** You can no longer live as a citizen. Now you must learn to live as a foreign spy, recruiting for your new country, while trying to fit in just enough to make it out alive. How do we do this? **Hebrews 13:14** tells us that while we live in this temporary world, we seek the city that is to come. **1 Peter 2:11-12** tells us to abstain from the ways of this world as we war against it. We should live honorably among the people of this world in order to recruit them. The bottom line is this... this world is foreign soil, and you are a traitor living without the protections of its citizenship. You are its enemy and it will hate you! But, rest assured...**It is eternally more important to be loved by God and hated by the world rather than adored by the world and judged by God.**

Secondly we need to see that... **This World Hates You Because You Worship The Creator Instead of The Created.** **Verse 18** makes it clear, this world hates you because it hates Jesus. **Verse 20** also lets us know that if they hate and persecute our master then they will most definitely do the same to his servants. Why do they hate Jesus? Look at **vs 21-24 again**. Because of who He is and who sent him... God! His name is not just Jesus; his name is also Son of God. And God the father sent Him. They hated the Father long before they hated the Son. Simply put, they hate God. They hate us because they hate Jesus. They hate Jesus because Jesus was sent from God and is God. But why tell do they hate God? The answer is clear. **God is a threat to this world because he has all authority and demands all allegiance.** His thoughts are higher than our thoughts and his ways higher than our ways and it's his way or the highway. And they hate that.

Think about it. You don't like it when you feel that you have a right to do something and are told otherwise. You feel like your freedom is being impeded. **When Canaan was 4 I was picking him up from pre-school at this church we had him enrolled in. Parking was all over the place. Minivans, like mine, were lining both sides of the road waiting for**

**their children to come out. Canaan came out, got in, buckled up, and as I'm pulling out a guy rear-ends me. I was out, he was going too fast and not paying attention. I thought it was an open and shut case. However, when the officer got there, I got the ticket. I was so mad. My rights were impeded and the system had failed me. This was an injustice of the highest order. Suffice to say, I was not happy with the authorities.** Well the world sees Jesus as a threat to their freedom. They see him as an unfair authority. They want full autonomy to do whatever they want and if they are told they can't do something then the system has failed them.

So what is their solution? **Easy; become their own authority; make their own rules; follow every whim of their thoughts and every feeling in their hearts. The world doesn't want any authority at all... they merely want to be their own god's! And this is a compounding fallacy. When one makes themselves their own authority; aka god, they deny themselves nothing and end up worshipping themselves by worshipping everything afforded to them. Not only have they made themselves an idol but they have made everything an idol. In worshipping themselves they worship every possession, every pleasure, every habit, every entertainment, everything! And just like those in Christ's time who substituted worship of the creator for the things he created including themselves! Romans 1:25** tells us that they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped the creature rather than the creator. It's easy to see why the world hates us when we worship God. Our worship of the one true God shows them that there is an authority greater than their own, and the world will fight to keep it's authority and destroy any competing authorities with all of it's might! But, rest assured...**It is eternally more important to be loved by God and hated by the world rather than adored by the world and judged by God.**

Next, we need to see that... **This World Hates You Because You Refuse To Assimilate To It's Culture.** So far, you are a foreign enemy of the state who refuses to acknowledge this world's foreign gods. No wonder they hate you. But it gets worse. Look again at **vs 20**. If they kept my word... Hmm... If only this world had kept the word of God. Rather they have full sail rejected it with no reservations. **To this world there is nothing more dangerous than the Word of God. In every century the enemy has tried to eradicate it, but to no avail. The Word of God continues to stand!** For those of us who follow Christ, the Word of God is our standard of truth and living. It is our instructions and marching orders. We don't deviate from them, even when popular opinion demands we water them down or re-word them. If they are God's words, how do any of us have the right to re-word them? We don't! Our belief in Christ is iron-clad because our faith in this book as the Word of God is unshakable! The culture of this world is almost the exact opposite of the culture of the Word of God. When those two opposing worldviews collide there are fire works! If you don't believe me,

turn on the news; we are in the greatest culture war we have ever been in! Why? Because they refuse to accept the words of God and they can't stand to allow us to just live our lives. **We are a threat because we will not bend the words of God. And we won't... period... exclamation point... full stop! Come on... it's 2023, it's all about love, it's all about letting people be who they want to be and to love who they want to love... right? Great... love who you want to love, be who you want to be... just as long as it doesn't infringe on my rights and as long as it doesn't violate my children! But I will not change what the word of God says because it hurts your feelings! And I will never adapt to your culture by affirming your sin! I I know that means you will hate me, but rest assured... It is eternally more important to be loved by God and hated by the world rather than adored by the world and judged by God.**

Lastly, we need to recognize that... **This World Hates You Without A Cause.** Guess what.. they hate you simply because that's what they do. **Vs. 25** tells us that they hated Jesus, and by extension us, without a cause. **Doesn't it seem strange sometimes that the world hates us the way it does? Doesn't it seem strange that even though Christians as a whole are the nicest most kind people in the world they are the most hated? Doesn't it seem strange that the more tolerant and loving we become that the more we are hated simply because of what we believe? Isn't it weird that Muslims and Hindus, who are way more militant and intolerant than Christians, get a pass where Christians don't? Isn't it weird that for the most part where there is bigotry and persecution in our world today, it is geared towards believers? Isn't it strange that a disabled, half Chinese, half black, gay woman, who identifies as a trans fluid homosexual man, dressed in drag can pole dance in front of children on television but you can't find one properly represented Christian on any show on TV? They don't need a cause to hate us... because this isn't a typical battle. This is a spiritual battle.**

### Application

This is a war against the powers of hell verse the powers of heaven. This is an unseen war that can only be glimpsed through eyes of faith. This is a war that was planned before the foundation of the world and one in which, if we stay true to God, we will eventually win! **John 16:1-4** tells us that they will indeed hate us. They will kill us and think they are doing a service to their gods. But in the end remember the words of Christ! Remember the words of **Matthew 10:22**, those who endure to the end will be saved. Remember the words of **Luke 6:22**, blessed are you when people hate you on account of the Son of Man.

### Conclusion

When persecution comes against you in this world remember... this is not your home; you are a citizen of heaven. Remember that Jesus knows what you are going through because he's been through it. And remember that the words of God are truth no matter how unpopular they may be. This is a spiritual battle. So don't you dare give up, or desert your post. Jesus has died for your citizenship. Jesus has loved you unconditionally and brought you in, not as a stranger but as a child. Jesus has been hated so that you could be loved. Can you be hated so that he can be loved? **Jesus is worth being hated for!** Remember the words of **Luke 9:26**; if you are ashamed of Jesus and his words then he will be ashamed of us before the Father. **It is eternally more important to be loved by God and hated by the world rather than adored by the world and judged by God.**