

The Abider in a Hostile World

John 15:18-27

Reading: Psalm 130 - ???????

Bethany Baptist Church

January 23, 2022

...pray...

There are big and foreboding headlines around the Christian world as a new year begins.

We've already discussed some of them here!

The life-changing message of the gospel is being criminalized!

In Canada, as of January 8, Bill C-4 makes preaching the Bible's teaching on sexuality morality, sexual identity, and God's blueprint for marriage a crime.

Thousands of North American pastors have pushed back by preaching the truth this month.

Pastor John MacArthur's sermon video from this past weekend addressed this concern and was edited by YouTube because his assertion that God made you either XX or XY, and that's it, ... and now that's considered hate speech.

Dr. Albert Mohler (SBTS) pointed out this week that in West Lafayette, Indiana a new city council proposal, **31-21**, threatens anyone who speaks with a minor to help them overcome unwanted *same-sex attraction* or *gender dysphoria*.

It is **no** coincidence that West Lafayette is the home of *Faith Church*, which has operate one of our country's most powerful *church-based counselling ministries* for almost 50 years.

But even *setting aside* Faith Church's free counselling ministry, this **31-21** proposal threatens a parent's right to sit down with their children to voice their concerns and share their biblical values on sexuality.

My point this morning, as we return to the Gospel of John, is that if you abide in Jesus, the world will hate you.

Turn with me to John 15:18-27.

We've been working our way through John 15 to determine what it means to *abide in Christ* – to *live in Him*.

Jesus is very clear: “*for apart from Me, you can do nothing.*”

We've considered the **meaning** of *abiding* (*remain*), the **means** of abiding (*remain in Jesus' teaching*), and the **joy** of abiding as we *love one another*.

We've even come up with a term for this lifestyle (15:5): “*He who abides in Me,*” or simply, “*The abider.*” We want to be known as “*abiders.*”

But now we appear to have a *problem*. The next thing Jesus teaches about *the abider* is the world will *hate him* but he still has to talk about Jesus!

The main point of this morning's text.

Abiding in Christ in a Christ-hating world.

Three insights:

vv.18-21 – We are hated because we *belong to Jesus*

vv.22-25 – We are hated because of *Jesus' words and works*

vv.26-27 – We are *helped by* of the *Holy Spirit*

We are hated because we belong to Jesus.

1. Jesus' words in **vv.18-19** reminded me of military recruiting posters – sort of!

a. We've all seen them: *billboards* along the highway, *posters* at recruiting offices, *advertisements* on TV.

i. “*An Army of One*”

ii. “*Join the Navy, See the World*”

iii. “*Army Strong*”

iv. “*The Marines Are Looking Few Good Men*”

v. “*Uncle Sam Wants You!*”

b. They appeal to *patriotism, honor, opportunity, even vengeance*.

c. Jesus is *recruiting* a kingdom army. Here is Jesus' recruiting tagline in this morning's text (19b): “*The World Will Hate You.*”

i. *Follow Me, they world will hate you....*

2. Why does the world hate us (**read vv.18-19**).

a. These sound like questions – “*if*” - but they really aren't!

i. Jesus' grammar & syntax in vv.18 & 19 fit together to create sentences that assume you already know the right answer:

1. Does the world hate you? Yes!

2. Are you of the world? No!

b. The “*world*” (Gr. **κοσμος**; often in John; here = *the satanic order that God allows to be in effect in this world in this current age*; cf. Eph 2.)

- c. But *why* does the world hate Jesus' followers...? Because:
- i. **V.18** – *It hated Jesus first.* This is the *big reason!* That's why Jesus is headed for Gethsemane and then on to Golgotha! That's why the cross is less than 12 hours away!
 - ii. Second reason (19) – *You are not of this world.* The world hates all who stand in *opposition* to, or even in *distinction* from, its values. *conspicuous* and *vulnerable*.
 1. Jesus admits that the world “*loves*” its own...
 2. ...though never with the *unselfish, noble, self-sacrificing* love of Calvary...
 3. ...but it can muster a *form* a love, and it has **no** love for those who *stand apart* from it.
 4. Why do some kids get *bullied*? Being different sets you apart.
3. Jesus sees no such thing as a *hated leader* with a band of *popular followers!*
- a. He describes two polar opposite circumstances:
 - i. **V.20** – A persecuted *leader* whose *followers* will soon be persecuted. (This could be us!)
 1. Just keep reading through **John** and on into **Acts**. Review *crucifixion* of **Jesus**, soon followed by the *martyrdoms* of **Steven** and **James**.
 2. Read **Paul's** final words in 2 Tim 4:6,7 and realize the apostle is about to be *dragged* outside Rome and *beheaded* along the public highway.
 3. Dive in the **Book of Revelation** and remind yourselves of the pleading voices of the Tribulation Martyrs: “*How long, O Lord!?!*”

- ii. But there is, at times, a second circumstance. The leader whose *message* and *disciples* are welcomed.
 1. Jesus was welcomed in **Sychar** of Samaria.
 2. He was welcomed in the house of **Lazarus, Mary, and Martha**.
 3. And *these men* (disciples) left everything behind to follow Jesus!
 - iii. But you can sense the *prevailing tone* of Jesus' message: You **can't** follow Jesus in any *serious measure* and be on *warm terms* with the world.
4. Where does this teaching have its basis...? Jesus appeals to some logic He's used before – **read v.21**. Can I rewind that and say it *backwards*?
- a. The world **doesn't** know God.
 - b. Jesus is sent by God. Therefore the world **can't** know Jesus.
 - c. The disciples are being sent by Jesus. Thus the world **won't** know His followers, either.
5. Jesus' words (18-21) have suggested a few huge theological truths:
- a. *First*. There is only one, true God (19). He is the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. [If you are worshiping a god who didn't send Jesus to die in the place of sinners, you are serving a false god.] **(2X)**

- b. *Second.* If you are following Jesus, it's because He *chose* you, you didn't *choose* Him.
- i. This is a big theme in John (e.g. John 6:37, 44, 70; John 10) and in John's other writings (e.g. 1 John 4:10).
 - ii. Here in **v.19** Jesus' words are extra emphatic! "*I **Myself** chose you!*"
 - iii. **Wm. Hendriksen:** *The act which took place in time was based on an act which took place in eternity. (2x)*
 1. *Behind* the seashores of Galilee w/its fishing boats and nets, and *beyond* Matthew's tax booth in Capernaum, and *ages before* Paul, breathing fire and carrying cruel papers, set out on the Damascus Road, there *loomed* the *gracious, eternal counsels of God.*

Are you a follower of Jesus? Are you serious? Prepare yourself: you'll be hated because Jesus is hated!

We are hated because of Jesus' words and works.

1. This system (*world*) we've been rescued out of *hates* us.
 - a. They *hate* us because Jesus *removed* us from amongst them ...
 - b. ...and they *hate* us because of His *words* and *works*. **Read 22-25.**

2. Jesus makes another statement "*contrary to fact*": "*If I had **not** come and spoken to them....*" But He **did** *come* and He *did speak!*
 - a. What words did Jesus speak...?
 - i. Authoritative truth. Nicodemus: "*We know you come from God as a teacher.*"
 - ii. Absolute forgiveness. Adulterous: "*I do not condemn you either, go your way, sin no more.*"
 - iii. Excusive forgiveness. Thomas: "*I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, but by Me.*"
 - iv. Divine identity. Disciples: "*If you have seen Me you have see the Father.*"
 - b. Jesus clear, repeated teachings hold the world *accountable* for their hatred. Had Jesus **never** come and taught, they would have **no** accountability (22) for their sinful responses (22)....
 - i. But Jesus *has* come, and the world, which rejects Him, is *accountable* for its guilt.

3. The world is *accountable*, not only to Jesus' *words* but to His *works* (24). Can we consider just a sampler?
 - a. Jesus *healed* the sick and *cast out* demons.
 - b. He *fed* the multitudes and *quieted* storms.
 - c. He *gave sight* to the blind and *raised* the dead....
 - d. Were the Jews *ignorant* of all of this? **No!** The Jews schemed to get rid of Lazarus because all of Jerusalem knew that Jesus had raised His friend from the dead – four days dead!
 - e. **No!** V.24 – “*Now they have both **seen** and hated Me...*”
4. Jesus completes His thought with this: “...*and they [hate] My Father as well.*”
 - a. Here is an *uncomfortable truth* for those who are *nominally religious* or *ensnared by the cults*.
 - b. You can't *hate* Jesus but *love* God.
5. But how can anyone *hate* Jesus? How could they **question** His teachings and **discount** His works? Christian, it **doesn't** seem logical to you, does it...?
 - a. But the reason isn't *rational*, it's *spiritual!*
 - b. Jesus quotes **Psa 69:4** to emphasize that the world's animosity towards God's Son is completely *without any basis in reality*. V.25b – “*They hated Me without cause.*”
 - c. *Without cause* because Jesus is the Incarnate Son of God, and there is no guilt in Him.

Are you following Jesus this morning? The world will hate you!

They hate you because they hate Jesus.

They hate you because you embrace His words and works.

But we are helped by the Holy Spirit (read vv.26-27)

1. Despite His *warning* that the world *rejected* the testimony of Jesus' own words and works, He now *promises* to send two more witnesses to His kingdom; i.) the Holy Spirit; ii.) and you!

2. This is the third "Paraclete statement" in John, *Paraclete* meaning *helper*.
 - a. This promise is a *word of comfort* and it looks ahead just a few weeks to Pentecost, when God sends the Spirit to *indwell* and *empower* every one of Jesus' people.
 - b. Note (26) Jesus says *I will send Him "to you"*; this is a personal word of *comfort*.
 - c. Jesus then clarifies the Holy Spirit's title. He is *Paracelete* and He is the *Spirit of Truth*. He must be endued with truth or there won't be any real testimony! No one is *convicted* of sin or *led* to forgiveness by hearing a *watered-down, half-truth*.

3. But it isn't only the Holy Spirit who will testify; the Paraclete will also come to help Jesus' followers testify.
 - a. Their *credentials* are the three years of being molded by Jesus – "*for you have been with Me from the beginning.*"
 - b. Their *help* (26) is the Helper: the promised gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - i. Glorifying Jesus, and Jesus' words and works, is the Spirit's primary mission.
 - ii. John 16:8 - *And He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment:*

4. Consider what happens next: Jesus will *die* in the place of sinners, God will *raise* Him from the dead, The disciples will *receive* the Great Commission, Jesus will *ascend* to Heaven, Pentecost *arrives* and the Spirit *falls*, the Church is *born*, the NT is *canonized*, the church *emerges* through centuries of *opposition, reformation, and triumph...*
 - a. ...we ***stand*** today!
 - b. But will we take Jesus' words seriously?
 - i. The world *hates* the truth.
 - ii. The teachings of Jesus can *land you in jail*.
 - iii. But, still, Jesus says, "*And you will testify also.*" The Spirit will be with you!

...pray...