"No More Excuses" John 15:22-25

Introduction:

- 1. Before We Had Back To John 15:
 - Let's First Turn In Our Bibles To:
 - Acts 9 Where We Find The Account:
 - Of The Conversion Of A Jewish Man Named Saul:
 - On The Road To Damascus!
 - The Same Man:
 - Who Would Later Be Renamed:
 - Paul Who Would Also Become:
 - One Of The Apostles / "Sent Ones" Of:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - And In Acts 9:1-5 We Find This Testimony:
 - "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, / And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. / And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: / And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? / And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks!"
- 2. Now A "Prick" Is Something Like:
 - An Animal Prod:
 - That May Be Used To Get:
 - An Animal To Go Somewhere Or Do Something:
 - That It Would Otherwise:
 - Not Want To Go Or Do!
 - Its Something That:
 - Would Be Unpleasant Enough:
 - To Get The Animal's Attention!
 - But Once It Obeys & Complies:
 - It Can Get Relief!
 - And Yet Before It Finally Figures That Out:
 - It Will Do Everything It Can:
 - To Express Its Displeasure In:
 - "The Prick!"
 - If The Animal Is A Bull:
 - It Might Run & Buck & Even Kick:
 - Against Those Pricks!
- 3. And In Much The Same Way:
 - This Is What Was Happening:
 - To Saul As Jesus Confronted Him:
 - With The Reality Of His Rebellion Against:
 - The God He Claimed To Serve!
 - And This Is Also What Was Happening:
 - To So Many Others:
 - As Jesus Confronted Them:
 - About Their Rebellion:
 - All Throughout His Ministry!
 - That We've Been Looking At:
 - In The Gospel Of John!
- 4. So Let's Now Turn Back To:
 - John 15 Where:
 - After Jesus Describes To His Disciples:
 - What Their Relationship Will Be Like:
 - With The World!
 - And How The World Will Respond To:
 - Them & Their Message About Him:

- How That The World Will Hate Them! - In John 15:22-25 - Jesus Further Explains: - How The World Will Respond To: - Him & His Message: - Even Though - Time After Time: - He Revealed The Truth To Them! - And Even "Pricked" Them: - With The Truth: - Even As He Would Later To Do Saul! - And - How Would The World Respond? - They Too Would "Kick Against The Pricks!" - They Too Would Resist & Reject Him: - Until - By Grace - God Would Break Through To Them & Break Up Their Hard Hearts! And This Is Why - As Jesus Continues: - To Share His Heart With His Disciples: - On This Last Night With Them: - Before His Crucifixion: - He Says: - "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. / 23 He that hateth me hateth my Father also. / 24 If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. / 25 But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause!" - In These Verses - We Can Find: - Four "Pricks" & Prods That Jesus Used: - To Get The Attention: - Of His People - And To Reveal To Them:
- Their True Hearts & Relationship With God! - And - When You Get "Pricked" In The Heart: - By God With These Truths: - It Will Leave You With: - No More Excuses In Your: - Response To & Relationship With Him! - Because - Unless You Surrender Yourself:
 - - To The Lord:
 - You Too Like Saul Will Find It:
 - "Hard To Kick Against The Pricks!"
 - Now What Are These "Pricks?"
- * The First "Prick" That We Find In These Verses Is:
- The Coming Of Christ! 1.

5.

- Because Of What Jesus First Says In:
 - 15:22 "If I Had Not Come!"
 - Now All Throughout These Verses:
 - Jesus Is Speaking In A Way:
 - To Prove The Truth:
 - Of The Opposite Of What He Says!
 - So When He Says:
 - "If I Had Not Come And Spoken Unto Them They Had Not Sin!"
 - Since Its Clear That:
 - He *Had* Come & That:
 - He *Did* Speak Unto Them:
 - Then They Did Sin!
 - And They Had No More Excuses For Their Sin!
 - And So He Speaks This Way:
 - To Get His Disciples Attention:
 - And To Get Them To Think!
 - Because These Truths Are How He:

- Will Confront & Prick Any Sinner:
 - With Their Sin!
- And The First Truth & Prick Is:
 - The Coming Of Christ Himself!
 - Of Course This Truth Is Pointed Out:
 - Time & Time Again:
 - All Throughout This Gospel!
 - And For Jesus Christ:
 - To "Come" Means That:
 - He Had To "Come" From Somewhere!
 - Which Means He Existed Even Before He Came!
- And In No Uncertain Terms:
 - In 6:38 Jesus Said:
 - "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me!"
 - And Later In 16:28 Jesus Will Say:
 - "I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father!"
- Now One Of The Most Amazing Things:
 - About Jesus' Coming:
 - Is That He "Came Unto Them" Even When He Knew:
- Who They Would Be!
 - The "Them" That He Talks About In This Verse:
 - Is The Same "World" That:
 - He Told His Disciples About:
 - In The Previous Verses!
 - The "World" That:
 - Would Hate Them Because:
 - It Hated Him!
 - So It Was No Surprise:
 - Who They Would Be:
 - When He Came To Them!
 - And When He Came To Us!
 - But He Came Anyways!
 - With His Light & His Life & His Love!
 - But He Also "Came Unto Them" Even Though He Knew:
- What They Would Do!
 - To Both Him & His Disciples!
 - After All He Just Got Through Telling His Disciples In 15:20 How The World Would:
 - Resist Them:
 - By Persecuting Them! And:
 - Reject Them:
 - By Keeping Their Words:
 - Just As Much As They Kept His Word!
 - And So Again For Jesus It Was No Surprise:
 - What They Would Do To Him:
 - When He Came To Them!
 - But He Came Anyways!
- So That Now Whenever A Person:
 - Is Confronted & Pricked:
 - With The Truth Of The Coming Of Christ:
 - They Must Do Something:
 - With That Truth!
 - They Can Either:
 - Accept It Or Reject It!
 - But No Matter What They Do:
 - The Coming Of Christ Leaves Sinners Like Us:
 - With No More Excuses In Our Relationship With God!

- And We Can See This Even Further:
 - With The Second "Prick" That WE Find In 15:22:
 - Which Is:

2. The Claims Of Christ!

- Because As Jesus Continues:
 - "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin!"
 - Of Course Not Only *Did*:
 - Jesus Come To Them & To Us!
 - He Also Did:
 - Speak Unto Them & Unto Us!
 - And Whenever He Spoke:
 - He Spoke The Words Of His Father!
 - Which Are The Very Words:
 - Of God!
- Of Course When Jesus:
 - Spoke To His Friends:
 - This Was True!
 - Even Has He Said Back In:
 - 15:15 "Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you!"
 - What A Claim This Is!
 - For Jesus To Make Known To His Disciples:
 - Not Just "Some Things" But:
 - "All Things" He "Heard Of His Father!"
 - But This Claim Is True!
 - Because Whatever Jesus Says:
 - Is So!
 - And Whenever Jesus Speaks:
 - Or Makes A Claim:
 - It Is A Prick That Requires:
 - A Response!
- Because Even When Jesus:
 - Spoke To His Foes:
 - He Continued To Speak To Them:
 - Nothing But The Words Of:
 - God The Father!
 - The Same God:
 - Who Many Of Them:
 - Claimed To Know & Even Belong To As Jews!
 - Which Is Why In:
 - 8:28 He Said To Them "When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things!"
 - What A Claim This Is!
 - But This Claim Is Also True!
 - Because Whatever Jesus Says:
 - Is So!
- And That Is Why Whenever A Person:
 - Is Confronted & Pricked:
 - With The Truth Of The Claims Of Christ:
 - They Must Do Something:
 - With That Truth!
 - Because In Theory:
 - If Jesus Didn't Come To Them & If Jesus Didn't Speak To Them:
 - They As Jesus Puts It:
 - "They Had Not Had Sin!"
 - Now Jesus Is Not Here Talking About:

- Sinlessness & Perfection!
 - Because We Know That:
 - Even Before Jesus Came & Spoke To This World:
 - There Was Sin In This World!
 - Even From The Beginning!
 - With The Sin Of:
 - Adam & Eve!
- But Jesus Is Here Talking About:
 - Their Own Personal Knowledge & Conviction Of:
 - A Particular Sin Even:
 - The Greatest Sin Which Is Disobedience To:
 - The Greatest Commandment!
- And What Is The Greatest Commandment?
 - In Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus Confirmed That:
 - "The First And Great Commandment" Is:
 - "Thou Shalt Love The Lord Thy God With All Thy Heart, And With All Thy Soul, And With All Thy Mind!"
- And For Generation After Generation:
 - So Many Of The Jewish People Thought:
 - That They Had Kept This Commandment!
 - That They Loved God!
 - Because After All:
 - Wasn't Their Choosing By God:
 - Proof Of Their Obedience To God?
 - And So For Many:
 - They Lived In Blissful Ignorance:
 - Of Their True Relationship With God!
 - Just Like Saul Before:
 - Acts 9!
- But Then Jesus Did Come!
 - And Jesus Did Speak!
 - And He Spoke Like Noone Ever Did Before!
 - And They Had Do Something:
 - With Who He Is & What He Said!
 - Either Accept & Believe!
 - Or Reject And Kick Against The Pricks!
- But No Matter What They Did:
 - Jesus Says In 15:22:
 - "But now they have no cloke for their sin!"
 - So The Sin Was Always There!
 - But Now Because Of Jesus' Coming & Because Of Jesus' Claims:
 - They Had Nothing Else:
 - To Hide Their Sin! And:
 - They Had No More Excuses:
 - For Their Sin!
- Because How Anyone Responds:
 - To Christ Reveals:
 - The Truth About:
 - Their Relationship With God!
 - Because As Jesus Says In:
 - 15:23 "He that hateth me hateth my Father also!"
- If A Person Rejects:
 - The Coming & Claims Of Christ:
 - That Person:
 - Rejects Their Creator!
 - If A Person Hates Jesus:
 - That Person In Truth:
 - Hates God!

- And There Are No More Excuses:
 - For This The Greatest:
 - Of Sins!
- When A Person Is Confronted:
 - With These Truths:
 - It Is Hard To Kick Against The Pricks!
- * But This Leads Us To A Third Truth & Prick Which Is:
- 3. The Conduct Of Christ!
 - That We Find Next In 15:24:
 - "If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father!"
 - Once Again Jesus Proves The Positive:
 - By Speaking In The Negative!
 - And The Truth Is:
 - Jesus Did Many Works:
 - "Which None Other Man Did!"
 - And He Could Say This Because:
 - He Did The Works Of God!
 - No Doubt Jesus Is Talking About:
 - His Miracles!
 - Which He Even Described As:
 - Proof Of His Claims!
 - In Matthew 11:5-6 He Reminded John The Baptist's Disciples That:
 - "The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. / And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me!"
 - And All Of Jesus Works:
 - Were The Works Of God!
 - In John 9 When Jesus Gave Sight To The Man Born Blind When His Disciples Asked Him In 9:2:
 - "Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?"
 - Jesus Answered:
 - 9:3-5 "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. / I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. / As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world!"
 - Jesus Did The Works Of God!
 - But Even Though Jesus' Miracles:
 - Were Truly Unique!
 - Everything Jesus Did:
 - He Did In A Way That:
 - "None Other Man Did!"
 - Because He Was Completely Righteous!
 - And In All That He Did:
 - He Did The Will Of God!
 - In 4:34 Jesus Said:
 - "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work!"
 - So All Jesus Did:
 - In His Conduct:
 - In This World Where Not Only:
 - Great Works & Good Works:
 - They Were The Very Works Of God!

- And So Once Again:
 - Whenever A Person:
 - Is Confronted & Pricked With:
 - The Truth Of His Conduct:
 - They Must Do Something:

- With This Truth!

- This Is Why Jesus Adds Again:
 - In 15:24 In Theory:
 - If Jesus Did Not Do God's Works & God's Will In His Conduct:
 - Then "They Had Not Had Sin!"
 - That Is They Would Have Been Able:
 - To Continue To Live Their Lives:
 - In Ignorance Of:
 - Their True Relationship With God!
- But The Conduct Of Jesus:
 - Will Always Expose A Person:
 - For Who They Really Are And:
 - What They Really Do!
 - And The Sad Truth Is:
 - That For Many Even When They Feel These Pricks:
 - Instead Of Accepting Christ, They Will Continue To Reject Christ!
- Because Even Then:
 - When They Saw God At Work:
 - In Jesus They Hated:
 - Them Both!
 - As Jesus Put It:
 - 15:23 "But now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father!"
- So To Reject:
 - These "Pricks" Of Jesus:
 - His Coming!
 - His Claims!
 - And His Conduct!
 - Is To Reject & To Hate:
 - The Very God That Some Might Say:
 - They Love!
- * But There's Just One More "Prick" We Find In These Verses And That Is:
- 4. The Charge Of Christ!
 - Which We Find Next In 15:25:
 - Which Says "But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause!"
 - You See The Rejection & Hatred:
 - Of His Own People:
 - Did Not Take Jesus:
 - By Surprise!
 - In Fact It Was Something That:
 - Was Prophesied In The Scriptures:
 - That The Jews Claimed:
 - To Believe & To Follow!
 - Here The "Law" Is Put:
 - For The Entire Old Testament:
 - As A Whole!
 - Which Was Often Described:
 - This Way!
 - But Here Also:
 - Jesus Calls The "Law" "Their Law!"
 - Because It Was Something That:
 - They Probed Deeply Into!
 - They Took Pride In!
 - They Claimed To Practice!
 - So Much So They Tried To Prioritize It In Every Area Of Life!
 - But There Was One Part:
 - Found In Psalm 69:4 Which:

- They Did Not Quite Apprehend Or Apply!
 - And That Was:
 - To Hate Someone Without A Cause / Without A Reason!
- Now They Did Apply This:
 - To Themselves!
 - In Fact Even Today:
 - The Jews See Themselves As:
 - Being Hated By The World:
 - "Without A Cause!"
 - Even In The Jewish Talmud:
 - They Consider Hatred Without A Cause:
 - As The Very Reasons Why:
 - Their Temples Were Destroyed!
 - Hatred From Without:
 - When The First Temple Was Destroyed:
 - By The Babylonians!
 - And Even Hatred From Within:
 - When The Second Temple Was Destroyed:
 - By The Romans!
 - But In Psalm 69 So Many Of The Verses:
 - Were Not Meant To Be Applied To:
 - The People Of Israel But To:
 - Their Messiah! To Christ Himself!
 - And So It Was To Be Christ:
 - Who Would Be "Hated Without A Cause!"
- But They Did Not Apply It:
 - To Jesus!
 - They Did Hate Him:
 - Without A Cause!
 - And In Doing So:
 - They Condemned Themselves:
 - And So Were Without Excuse!

Conclusion:

- Whenever A Person:
 - Is Confronted With:
 - The Coming Of Jesus!
 - The Claims Of Jesus!
 - The Conduct Of Jesus! And Even:
 - Their Charges By Jesus:
 - Through The Bible:
 - They Are Left With:
 - No More Excuses!
- 2. Because It Is Hard To Kick:
 - Against The Truths:
 - Of These Pricks!
 - I Wonder If:
 - These Were The Same "Pricks" That Jesus Used:
 - To Get Saul's Attention:
 - Even Before He Appeared To Him On The Road To Damascus!
- 3. But Even Though:
 - Jesus Is Speaking Primarily About:
 - Those Who Ultimately:
 - Rejected Him!
 - The Same Principle Applies:
 - To You Even When:
 - You Receive Him & Believe In Him!
- 4. Because What Is:

- Your Responsibility:
 - Now That You Do Know Christ?
 - Well There Are Many!
 - But They Can Be Summed Up:
 - In What Jesus Said Back In 15:4:
 - "Abide In Me!"

- To Abide In Christ:
 - Involves Faith First & Foremost!
 - But Then It Goes Further!
 - And Includes:
 - Fellowship With Christ!
 - Faithfulness To Christ! And:
 - Fruitfulness For Christ!
- 5. Are You Abiding In Christ?
 - Because Of His Coming:
 - For You You Have No More Excuses:
 - For Not Abiding In Fellowship:
 - With Him!
 - Because Of His Claims:
 - To You You Have No More Excuses:
 - For Not Striving To Be Faithful:
 - To Him!
 - And Because Of His Conduct:
 - Before You You Have No More Excuses:
 - For Not Being Fruitful:
 - Through His Example & Enabling Power!
 - And Every Time:
 - You Learn About His Coming!
 - You Hear His Claims! And:
 - You See His Conduct:
 - Through God's Word:
 - Stop Kicking Against His Pricks!
 - And Just Follow Him!
- 6. It Is Hard To Kick Against These Truths!
 - So Receive & Respond To Them!
 - Go Where He Wants You To Go!
 - Do What He Wants You To Do!
 - And Be What He Wants You To Be!
 - Because You Have:
 - No More Excuses:
 - To Remain In Rebellion & Sin!
 - Because When You Get "Pricked" By God:
 - With These Truths:
 - It Will Leave You With:
 - No More Excuses!
 - And Without Surrendering Yourself:
 - To The Lord:
 - You Too Will Find It:
 - "Hard To Kick Against The Pricks!"

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