

## **Lighthouse Bible Church**

**June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**John 15: 18 – 27** *Scripture Reading: Acts 7: 54 - 60*

### **Why the World hates the Friends of Jesus #2**

#### **Stand – Read – Pray**

Two week ago we saw what it means to be a friend of Jesus and how we know that we are His friends and that He is our friend. Jesus Himself used the term ‘friends’ 3 times in Verses 13 – 15 of John 15. He told His disciples, and by application us, how to be a true friend of His.

We saw that we are His friends if we obey His commands and one of His commands was to love one another with a sacrificial selfless love that would give one’s life for His friends as Jesus loved us a gave His life for us.

We saw that being a friend of Jesus means that we know and understand His revealed word and we know that we were chosen by Him for salvation, to be His friend. We know that a friend of Jesus bears fruit that remains for all eternity and as friends of Jesus, we experience answered prayer.

Then we saw last week, that because we who are born again believers are friends of Jesus and it shows in our life by what we say and what we do, that the world hates us just like it hated Jesus before us. To be a friend of Jesus is to be against this world system that we saw last time is run by Satan and that is why it is anti-God and anti-Christ and anti-Christian, and becoming more so all the time.

We saw that the evil world system that pervades every aspect of our society today, the social, economical, political and theological is run by Satan and

loves its own but hates those chosen out of it by Christ. And this is every one of you here today that are born again believers.

And as we saw last time, the world does hate those born again believers who Jesus called out of the world and wants to persecute and kill them because that is what they did to Jesus. And as Christians, little Christ's, we have been hated and persecuted and killed all throughout the history of the church, the called out one's of God.

And now, to finish up, we get to see why the world hates Christians and what lies at the root of that hatred. *If you weren't here last week, get the CD.* Let's look at it starting in Verse 21.

**Verse 21: But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.**

The bottom line reason why people will hate you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely **for His names sake** is this: **because they do not know Him who sent Me**, they do not know God.

And when you tell someone who is steeped in a false religious system, like the scribes and Pharisees, or you tell someone who is involved in a religious cult that they don't know the true God, they take offense at that. But it is the truth and Jesus told the Pharisees that over and over again and that is why they hated Him.

Jesus said to the Pharisees in **John 8: 19** you know neither Me nor My Father if you had known Me you would have known My Father also. Then He says in **John 8: 54 – 55** If I honor Myself My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me of whom you say that He is your God. Yet

**you have not known Him, but I know Him and if I say I do not know Him I shall be a liar like you, but I do know Him...** One writer said this:

“False religion is demonic. Liberalism, modernism, those things that even call themselves Christianity that deny the virgin birth of Christ and the deity of Christ and the verbal inspiration of Scripture, *and the trinity, and salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone*, those are not people who love God, those are people who hate God. They are under Satan’s control. Whether it’s gross kind of atheism or whether it’s superficial kind of liberal modern Christianity, they all hate God. They are at enmity with God. They are against God. They are on Satan’s side”. *MacArthur GTY John*

The Pharisees claimed to know God and yet when God comes to them in human form, in the person of Jesus Christ, they hated Him and wanted to kill Him. Jesus said in **John 8: 42 – 44 if God were your Father you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God nor have I come of Myself but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word (because) you are of your father (whom) the devil.**

There are a lot of very religious people, just like the Scribes and Pharisees, who say they love God but they don’t really even know Him and it shows in their hatred toward Christ and Christians who speak the truth of God’s word and the Christian message of salvation through Christ alone.

In **Acts 4: 1 – 2** it says of Peter and John **now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them being GREATLY DISTURBED that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection.**

In **Acts 7: 54 – 57** Stephen, after telling the people of the history of Israel leading to the Messiah Jesus Christ and how they killed all the prophets foretelling about Jesus and then they killed Him, it says **when they heard these things they were cut to the heart and they gnashed at him with their teeth** and then **they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears and ran at him with one accord and stoned him.**

**Acts 13: 49 – 50** says that **devout and prominent women and the chief men of Antioch raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their region.**

They get to **Iconium** in **Acts 14: 2** it says **the unbelieving Jews poisoned the minds of the Gentiles against them .. Verse 5 and when a violent attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews with their rulers to abuse and stone them, they left.**

They get to **Lystra** still continuing to preach the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ and in **Acts 14: 19** **they stoned Paul**, and left him for dead, but he wasn't dead and he wasn't through preaching either. Later he goes to **Philippi** and in **Acts 16: 20 – 23** and preaches Christ and it says **they exceedingly trouble our city**, a religious city of customs and laws that did not know God, and then it goes on to say **the magistrates commanded them to be beaten with rods and when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison.** And we know what happened in there, the Philippians jailer was saved.

Do you remember in Acts 17 where Paul was in Athens and He was preaching in the synagogues to the Jews and Gentiles and word got out and some of the philosophers asked him to share his doctrine. So they brought him to the Areopagus or Mars Hill, and this is what he starts out saying to the men of Athens in **Acts 17: 22 – 23** **I perceive that in all things you are very religious, for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your WORSHIP, I even found an altar with the inscription; to the**

**unknown God. Therefore the One whom you WORSHIP WITHOUT KNOWING, Him I will proclaim to you.** You see they were very religious and worshiped but did not know God.

Paul said in **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2: 8** that had you known God, you would not have crucified the Lord of glory. And if people knew God today, they would not continue to put Christ to open shame and persecute His people like they do.

Apart from being born again by His Spirit, no one can know God, no matter how religious they are. And if they view Christ as anything but God in human form, they don't know God and they will hate His Son and His people. And that is what we see in the book of Acts, that is what we see in all of the New Testament and that is what we have seen all throughout church history, that is what we see today and that is what will continue to happen during the tribulation until Christ comes back. All because these unbelievers claim to know and worship God but they really don't know Him.

Then Jesus says in Verse 22

**Verse 22: If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.**

Jesus isn't saying that if He hadn't come that they would be sinless, that would violate what other scriptures say about our sin nature. **Romans 3: 23 for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, Romans 3: 10 there is none righteous, no not one.** So Jesus isn't talking about being sinless, He is talking about a specific sin as it relates to His **coming and speaking to them.**

Jesus came as God in human form. Jesus **spoke** to them and revealed the Father to them and they chose to reject Jesus and in rejecting Him, they are rejecting the Father as well. In hating Christ, they are hating the Father as

well. So the sin Jesus is referring to is their sin of rejecting Him; and yet somehow continuing in their act of false worship.

Not so much different than the people of **Romans 1: 21** where it says **because although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise they became fools and change the glory of the incorruptible God into an image ... and the exchanged the truth of God for the lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator..**

Jesus says ‘you have the full revelation of God through Me and through what was written in the Old Testament about Me and you have chosen to reject it and Me and have your own form of hypocritical worship’. That is their sin, rejection of God and Christ and all that He revealed to them through what He spoke to them and in their hypocrisy, still want to say they are worshipping God.

If you want to see that played out, just look at **Matthew 12: 22 – 32** where Jesus heals a demon possessed blind and mute man and the Pharisees attribute the miracle to Jesus Himself being Satan possessed. Then after knowing their thoughts and rejection of Him, He says **every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven me. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man it will be forgiven him but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit it will not be forgiven him either in this age or the age to come.**

The Pharisees saw and heard everything Jesus said and did in the power of the Spirit of God, and for the Pharisees to call Him Satan possessed, is to totally reject Him and the Spirit of God and all the revealed word from the Old Testament about Him. So, in essence, it is a total rejection of the total revealed truth about Him; so there is nothing left as Hebrews 6 says.

The bottom line is this; people who appear to be religious and appear to be worshipping God but have never received Jesus Christ as their Savior have rejected the full revelation of God and don't know Him, even today.

And just like Jesus said at the end of Verse 22 **they have no excuse for their sin** because they had the full revelation of God and rejected it, so to does **Romans 1: 18 – 20** say of those who **suppress the truth in unrighteousness about what may be known of God so that they too are without excuse** also. People today are without excuse when it comes to knowing Christ, especially coming to this church and hearing about Him. If they choose to reject that truth then there is no excuse for their sin, only a fearful expectation of things to come.

People of Christ's day and our day play their religious games going into the synagogues and churches and going through the motions all the while not knowing God and hating Jesus and thus hating God. **They draw near to Him with their mouth, honor Him with their lips but their heart is far from Him and in vain they worship Him teaching as doctrine the commandments of men** Jesus said in **Matthew 15: 8 – 9**. Jesus said in **John 5: 23** **He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.**

Then Jesus says in Verses 23 - 24:

**Verses 23:** **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.**

He told them that it is impossible to say you love God and yet hate Me because if you hate Me you are hating God; because I am God.

Jesus is saying that they had all the revelation they needed, not only in what I said, but what I **did** as well. I did miracle after miracle, sign after sign, and told them that through My words and works I was revealing the Father and when you have seen and heard Me you have seen and heard Him as well.

No one else did the miracles that Jesus did. He walked on water, He fed 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish, He raised the dead continually, He cast out demons, He healed every kind of disease; all pointing to Him coming from God and being God among them.

But Jesus said ‘they chose to reject Me and the words and works pointing to the Father and are now accountable for that **sin** of rejection.

And in their rejection they show their **hatred for Me and My Father**’. But the interesting thing is, as verse 25 says, this rejection and hatred of Jesus was foretold in scripture.

**Verse 25: but this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law ‘they hated Me without a cause’.**

Do you realize that the hatred and animosity, and jealousy and rejection of Jesus was written in the scriptures long before it would happen? And there was absolutely no **cause** for them to hate Him. He always did the Father’s will and always said what the Father gave Him to say and they still **hated Him without a cause**’.

There is no God given cause to hate Jesus; people hate Jesus because of their own sin. There is nothing about Jesus that anyone should hate Him, but they do and they do without a cause other than their sinful heart is desperately wicked and even desperately religiously wicked.

Here Jesus quotes David in **Psalm 35: 7, 19** and **Psalm 69: 4** that David was referring to Himself and yet had a greater fulfillment in the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

They hated Jesus without a cause and they will hate you without a cause when you live and talk like Jesus. When you expose the sinfulness of their heart through what you say and do and they choose to continue in their darkness rather than turning to the light, they will hate you. And then you will be a fulfillment of **Matthew 5: 11 – 12** **blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake, rejoice and be...**

You see, a true follower, a true disciple of Jesus Christ will suffer the hatred of the world and in some cases will suffer to the point of death. Are you that kind of disciple.

Are you willing to expose the unfruitful works of darkness **Ephesians 5: 11** says by letting your light so shine before men? Remember what Jesus said in **John 3: 19 – 20** that **men love darkness rather than light ... and everyone who practices evil HATES the light** because their deeds would be exposed.

The message of the cross is foolishness to the unbelieving world Paul said in **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1: 18** and it antagonizes them, rebukes them, indicts them and causes them to hate you all the more. So you know what you do? You do what Paul did and you preach the message of the cross anyway. Because you love them enough, even in their hatred of you, to give them every opportunity to repent or reject the salvation of Jesus Christ and reap the benefits or suffer the consequences of that decision.

**Verses 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 is not going to leave them powerless or comfortless or helpless when He leaves and they are living in the midst of a hateful world. He said I will send you **the Helper, from the Father, that proceeds from the Father, the Spirit of truth**, the Holy Spirit. He told them the exact same thing in **John 14: 16 – 17** that He would give them **another**, of the exact same kind as Me, comforter and helper.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit through the lives of the disciples and all born again believers is to **testify about Jesus**. That is the only message we have to share; the gospel of Jesus Christ and His death, burial and resurrection and plan of salvation and that is the message that the Holy Spirit of truth uses to change an unbelievers heart. Paul said in **Romans 1: 16 for I am not ashamed of the...**

Close and gospel here.

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Introduction and Review:

Verse 21:

John 8: 19, John 8: 54 – 55, John 8: 42 – 44  
Acts 4: 1 – 2, Acts 7: 54 – 57, Acts 13: 49 – 50  
Acts 14: 2, 5, Acts 14: 19, Acts 16: 20 – 23  
Acts 17: 22 – 23, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2: 8

Verse 22:

Romans 3: 23, Romans 3: 10, Romans 1: 21  
Matthew 12: 22 – 32, Romans 1: 18 – 20  
Matthew 15: 8 – 9, John 5: 23

Verses 23 – 25:

Psalm 35: 7, 19, Psalm 69: 4  
Matthew 5: 11 – 12, Ephesians 5: 11  
John 3: 19 – 20, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1: 18

Verses 26 – 27:

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Matthew 15: 8 – 9, John 5: 23

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Matthew 5: 11 – 12, Ephesians 5: 11  
John 3: 19 – 20, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1: 18

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John 14: 16 – 17, Romans 1: 16