

“Love Is Hated”

John 15:17-25

August 24, 2014

INTRO: Video: Gospel of John 15:1-17

T/S: Let's remember where we are in the series...

CONTEXT: Gospel of John... ch.13 marked key transition:

- PRIVATE vs. PUBLIC ministry of Jesus
- PURGE of Judas
- PURIFY the Church with light & love
- PROMISE of grace to passionate followers
- PARACLETES: Jesus, Holy Spirit, Believers
- PRODUCE... both a verb & a noun!

Dead branch = funeral/cosmetic corpse

T/S: *“As the Father has sent Me, I also send you”* - John 20:21

BIG IDEA:

*“Hate is every bit as much a part
of the Christian experience
as love is.” - JDP*

PREVIEW:

1. READIED... for Hate
2. REALITY... of Hate
3. REASON... for Hate
4. REVELATION... of Hate
5. RELATIONAL Hate
6. RESPONSIBLE... for Hate
7. REVEALED Hate
8. REMARKABLE (and responsible) Hate
9. RATIONALIZATION of Hate

T/S: Video - Gospel of John 15:17-25 (EAGLE face)

READIED for Hate... v.17

17“*This I command you, that you love one another.*”

1 John 2:15

Do not love the world or anything in the world.

If anyone loves the world,

love for the Father is NOT in them.

1 John 3:18

Let us not love with word and tongue,

but in action and in truth!

T/S: Love is hated... are you ready to be hated?

(Christ's cross is a portrait of BOTH love AND hate!)

REALITY of Hate... v.18

18 *"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.*

"world" = (Gk. "kosmos") humanistic thinking/systems that are predominately and inherently in defiance of God...

1 John 5:19 = *We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.*

"This aint going to be easy!"

REASON for Hate... v.19

19 *"If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.*

Christians don't fit in... We're different by design!

We're a monkey wrench... in the world's machinery.

“not of the world” & chosen “out of the world”

Christians in the world are like:

- Water on a fire...
- Light penetrating darkness...
- Police officers deployed to a raging riot...
- White blood cells against aggressive cancer
- **“Sheep amongst WOLVES!”**

Christians are "*chosen*" to contrast the world! ("*Beatitudes*")

The world system = Rom 1... (big tailgate party)

Christians are seen by the world as party poopers...
(ie. Open drapes in the midst of a morning hang over)

Christians = the world's conscience

*** BE salt & light!

Remember our message: **"Repent & Believe!"**

PROBLEM:

"Church in the US is floating down the river of culture."

- Bob Utley

James 4:4 = *You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.*

Most western church goers would do well to read more:

- A. *Bible: Acts 1:8's "witness" = "martyr"*
- B. *Puritans*
- C. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

REVELATION of Hate... v.20

20*"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.*

"It's simple really...

real Christians really do get treated like Christ."

Deuteronomy 31:8 = *"The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."*

Isaiah 41:10 = *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

ILLUSTRATION: (mirrors)

- A. Jesus = full body mirror
- B. D3 = big "hand-held"
- C. New "C" = sm. cosmetic
- D. P.o.P. = Reflection questions...
- E. Lost =cracked clear glass

***** Acts 7:52ff - Stephen is the first "martyred mirror"**

IRONY:

...the world loves its mirrors but hates an MRI.

Church of our day tries to pamper the world vs. preach to it!

***** 2 Timothy 3:12** = *Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*

RELATIONAL Hate... v.21

21“But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.

Galatians 4:16 = (religious response)...

Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?

KEY: Paul says "confront"

Do you confront... Or remain contained?

Ephesians 5:1-16... (in part)

1Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. **2**And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God...

...**6**Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. **7**Therefore do not become partners with them; **8**for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light **9**(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), **10**and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. **11**Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them...

...**15**Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **16**making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Mark 13:9-13 = *“Be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to courts, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. 10And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. 11And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. 12And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. 13And you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*

1 Peter 2:21 = *For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.*

Not knowing God is the root of all hate.

(cf. 1 Cor 2:7 & 10:20; John 8:19,44,54)

Acts 17 = common problem today

RESPONSIBLE for Hate... v.22

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

Romans 1:18-22; 28-32

18*The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, **19**since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.*

20*For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*

21*For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22**Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools...*

28*Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.*

29*They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, **30**slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; **31**they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. **32**Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.*

John 3:19-21

*19*This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. *20*Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. *21*But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

15:22 = Hebrews 6:4-8

(#1 concern is rejection of revelation!)

*4*For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, *5*and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, *6*and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. *7*For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. *8*But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

*“Truth-preaching & teaching...
Truth-loving & Truth-living
makes our church a dangerous “people”
& a dangerous “place”
to the lazy, the lukewarm & the liars.”*

- JDP

REVEALED Hate... v.23

23 *“He who hates Me hates My Father also.*

Remember... *we are one with Christ... therefore, those who hate us, hate Him (and the Father). At the same time, there is an inverted relationship that holds true as well... Those who hate Christ (and the Father), will also hate true Christians.*

Again, it's sadly simple...

**“When you really love like Christ...
you REALLY WILL be HATED *like* Christ.”**

REMARKABLE (and responsible) Hate... v.24

24 *“If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well.*

Matthew 12:31 = *Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.*

NOTE: "Hate" is as real a part of Christianity as "love" is a part of the Christian... Remember, "hate" (one of the children of sin), along with "evil," "pain," & "persecution," have been around since the fall in the Garden of Eden... Moreover, any serious study of the Scriptures brings one face to face with the ever-present biblical battle between good & evil, love vs. hate, life vs. death, light vs. dark...

PROOF Positive:

- Satan

- A. Before the Garden
- B. All the fallen angels (demons)
- C. Garden: "persecuted w/ poison"

- Cain kills Abel

1 John 3:12 = *Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.*

- Noah mocked & insulted

- Abraham: early journey struggles

- Sarah: don't forget Hagar...

- **Isaac** vs. **Ishmael** (today)
- **Joseph's** & his **brothers**
- **Moses** had epic battles vs:
 - A. Egypt
 - B. Korah
 - C. Nature/"the elements"
- **Caleb**: a warrior amongst wimps!
- **Joshua**: Caleb's courageous counterpart & a true Discipled warrior that made Discipled warriors, who made Discipled warriors (he is a portrait of passionate, faithful obedience & blessing!)
- Lets not forget **Esther & Mordecai**
- Look at the time of the **Judges**:
 - A. Othneil
 - B. Deborah
 - C. Gideon
 - D. Samson
 - E. Samuel
- Don't forget **David** & his fights:
 - A. Perceptions...
 - B. Lions & bears...
 - C. a literal GIANT...
 - D. Lust
 - E. Sinful son...
- Just READ the **Psalms & Prophets**:

- A. Sample Psalms...
- B. Read the Prophets (in context)

- **Daniel** & his battles...
 - A. Jealous back-stabbers
 - B. a literal den of lions!

- **Elijah** vs the prophets of Baal

- **Elisha's** divine battle-line VISION!

- **Jeremiah** vs false-peace teachers

- **Ezekiel** vs complacent wall-sitters

- **Isaiah** vs false-gospel-spreaders

- **Malachi** vs selfish, God-denying

*** And just think of how many people, places, & problems from the O.T. that we ***didn't even mention:***

- A. ***Phineas***
- B. ***Sodom & Gomorra***
- C. ***Shad, Meis, Abed...***
- D. ***Nehemiah***
- E. ***Job***

***Are you ready to talk about the "fight" in the light of the N.T.?

- Jesus
- Blind man of John 9
- Demon possessed
- Stephen
- Paul
- Timothy
- Titus
- **Churches written to:**
 - A. Corinthians & Jude (just a couple of examples)
 - B. 7 letters to the 7 churches in Revelation 2 & 3
- Life & death of believers.

(Read Hebrews 11 after the "big names")

(11:35-38)

*...There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. **36**Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. **37**They were put to death by stoning; **e** they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— **38**the world was not worthy of them...*

- Life & death of the apostles (**Read Paul's own account**)
(2 Corinthians 11:23-28)

*...I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. **24**Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. **25**Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, **26**I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. **27**I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. **28**Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches...*

RATIONALIZATION of Hate... v.25

25*“But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, ‘THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.’*

Warning: “Watch out!”

Psalm 55:21

*His talk is smooth as butter,
yet war is in his heart;
his words are more soothing than oil,
yet they are drawn swords.*

Friends, it's this simple:

“Hurters hate holy healers & helpers.” - JDP

&

***“Looking alike is not the same as
living &/or loving alike.”*** - JDP

*** VIDEO: **“Pete Frate’s Story”** (Ice Bucket Challenge) ***

Qt: “It’s amazing how we can justify an unwillingness to hear (and heed) God’s call”

- Jerry Rankin
ex-President, I.M.B.
(from his book entitled:
*“The Challenge to Great
Commission Obedience”*)

“How to...”

BE one who LIVES the LOVE that's HATED

2 Tim 3:16-17 = “authority of God’s Word”

Ephesians 5:11 = “contrast & confront evil”

“Obedience opens the door of opportunity.”

- JDP

Galatians 2:20 = “be crucified with Christ... He lives in you”

Philippians 3:10 = *“that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.”*

Luke 9:23 = “deliberately deny yourself DAILY”

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

Luke 14:23 & 27 = “compel them to come...
...to Christ & their cross”

(seemingly... but NOT antithetical)

23“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full

27And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Romans 8:18 = “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us”

Last thoughts...

**Paul told Timothy that EVERY true Christian
WILL BE persecuted...**

Are you being persecuted?

Be honest... ask yourself:

Why or why not?

CLOSE:

Contrast the “ice-bucket challenge” with Christ’s cross-carrying challenge!

1. Question: Where does a phenomenon/movement begin?
2. “This starts with 1 challenge & 1 name...”
3. All of a sudden... our fragile world can be wiped out!
4. Doc says: “I’m not sure how to tell you... BUT _____”
5. Pete’s response: “He would make his fight matter!”
6. He got an audience to listen...
7. His “simple goal” = “more attention & more action”
8. **Qt:** mom – “People listen, tear-up, express emotions... BUT, then you have to say to them: **‘Okay, so what are you going to DO about it???’** What’s your action plan???. What is your GOAL???”
9. NOTE: Pete’s marriage & baby (don’t underestimate what God can do in the midst of you battles & persecution).
10. **Qt:** wife – **“I just love him – and that’s that!”**
11. **Qt:** Pete to wife – **“its going to get worse before better”**

12. **Qt:** wife – *“its hard to watch someone you love so much failing...”*
13. Pete requires a full time nurse & feeding tube...

ACTIONS:

- A. Just 1 month ago “a friend introduced Pete to...”
- B. Conceptual goal = “raise awareness” get the news out
- C. Pete couldn’t do it for himself... so he sought help
- D. 1 person used to inspire countless others!

qt: *“Pete & those who love him know...
the challenge goes on...”*

Qt: I.M.B. medical missionary:

*“If we address their physical needs & diseases now
but they die eternally separated from Christ,
then we have failed...
for what good is it to be healthy in hell.”*

Let us BE Christ’s ambassadors... no matter the cost!



Amen!

Let's Pray...