

John 52 – Who Hated Jesus Without a Cause?

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John 15:18-25

Tenor of Discussion Changes

- Tenor of Christ's discussion with His Apostles, and us, becomes darker as His arrest looms nearer
 - The night grows darker, pressing in upon small band
 - The dialogue grows darker, oppressing Apostle's spirits
 - His hour looms nearer, seeking to extinguish His Light
- One can almost sense the growing hatred of the approaching priest guard guided by Judas, Ish Kerioth

Importance of Grammar

- "If the world hates you, know it hated Me before you."
(Jo 15:18)
 - "Hates you" – Present Active Indicative
 - Apostles experience and will experience specific acts of hatred against them for being in, not of, the World
 - "Hated Me" – Perfect Active Indicative
 - Christ experienced specific acts of hatred in the past whose influence continues forward in time

Reason for Darkness – World

- The World *loves* its own; i.e., those not saved (Sinners)
 - Phileo (φιλέω) – Sense of identification with the World rather than biblical love (1Co 13:4-8)
 - Apostles *were* to be of the World, sinners, but Christ chose, saved, them *out* of the World; it now hates them
 - Their salvation, and the salvation of those who hear His Word through them, exposes *the lie* of the World (2Th 2:9-11)

Christ Becomes More Explicit

- Christ explains another facet of the reality of the truth, “A servant is not greater than his master” (Jn 15:20)
 - World has persecuted Christ and seeks to kill Him
 - The World *will* persecute and kill the Apostles
 - World continues to persecute and kill believers today
 - The World, Darkness, always seeks to snuff out the Light presenting its *lie* as the only truth; self-justification

World Does Not Know Father

- The World (Notice how Jesus does not limit His discussion to just Jews?) is unified in its rejection of:
 - Father – Source of truth, hope and life: Repentance
 - Christ – Son of God: Cornerstone of Salvation – Men
- World (Lucifer) hates Father and Son it will also hate those who carry the *Logos* of Father and Son: *New creations shining into the night* (Mt 5:13-16)

Christ Was Their Last Hope

- If Christ had not come, the World would have been guiltless for rejecting Truth {No commandment} (Ro 7:7-14)
 - But Son did come, spoke the truth, verified by works never done before; beyond the ken and skill of man
 - "Therefore, they are without excuse..." condemned by their own unbelief; this extends from Lucifer, before Creation, until the end of this Creation to include ALL who are not saved, rejecting God's Truth (Ro 1:18-21)

They Hate Me Without Cause

- Christ joins His message with the written message {Bible} by quoting from Psalms (Ps 69:1-4)
 - This validates the Bible as the source of His Truth
 - He interprets the text: It refers directly to Him and the World's relationship to Him - Darkness hates Light
 - It also obliquely refers back to the Opening Hymn (Jo 1:9-11)
 - Darkness seeking to end the Light establishes the Light making the New Covenant possible; ensures its death

Who Hated Jesus?

- We will focus on three specific passages to understand Who hated, and hates, Christ
 - Even my *close* friend...has lifted up his heel... against me (Jo 13:18)
 - World hated me before hating you (Jo 15:18)
 - They hated me without a cause (Jo 15:25)
- Who hated Christ? Those closest to Him until...sin

Who First Hated Christ?

- Lucifer, the first who hated Christ (Is 14: 14-15; Es 28: 11-12; Jo 8:44)
 - Highest of angelic beings with direct access to God
 - He said, "I will be like God"; i.e., he sinned
 - Immediately he was filled with violence & hatred
 - He was cast from his position leading a third of the angels with him; sentenced to Lake of Fire: *death*, eternal separation from God; seraphim vainly search for God's righteousness in them to release them (Is 25:41; Re 12:3-4)

Close Relationship

- Lucifer had a close relationship with God and Son but:
 - Angels are ministering slaves to God (He 1:14)
 - This limited his intimacy and defined his position: no matter how elevated he was above other angels {Slaves}
 - Triggering event for his sin: possibly creation of man who would be above angels, adopted sons of God: who, like Christ, would have an intimate relationship to God (1Co 6:3; Ga 4:4-7; He 1:4)

Lucifer Betrayed His Trust

- Lucifer, as a steward of God's, had a position of trust
 - *Without a cause*, a wrong on God's part, Lucifer became prideful, thinking he could be above God and thus not serve man who was to begin *lower* than himself
 - Thus, Lucifer "lifted up his heel," rebelled, against God
 - Sentenced, He would take his hatred into the coming new Creation leading man to sin thus proving God to be the author of sin; unfit to sentence anyone to *death*

Who Next Betrayed God?

- Christ the builder of this physical Creation (Jo 1:1-9)
 - He created Man (אָדָם) in God's moral image, something never said concerning angels (Ge 2:7, He 1)
 - He taught Man, gave Man purpose in Creation
- Christ had a close relationship with Man and through Man with Woman, cloned from man, until sin came to earth via the Dragon, Lucifer (Satan, *the Accuser*) (Ge 12:9-10)

Man Betrayed Christ

- At Lucifer's instigation Man rebelled against Christ's commandment not eat of the *Tree of Knowledge (Good & Evil)* (Commandment revealed sin, Man died) (Ge 2:16-17, Ro 7:7-11)
 - Man chose to follow Woman, and thus Lucifer, into sin
 - Man rejected close relationship (God) for slavery to sin
 - In defending himself Man blamed Christ through Woman, whom Christ made, for his sin; *without a cause*

Which People Betrayed God?

- God chose a people as His own to represent Him before all the peoples of the world: Hebrews (De 7:6-8)
 - They received His Ten Words (Ex 20:1-17)
 - They received His ceremonial rituals pointing to the coming sacrifice of Christ for sin
 - They were to be different from other peoples, in the world but not of the world (Jo 15:18, 1Co 5:9-11)

Hebrews Betrayed Christ

- Even while God was giving His instructions to Moses on Mount Horeb the people were betraying the Ten Words they received directly from His mouth
 - They built and were worshiping Golden Calf (Ex 32:1-14)
 - Aaron, soon to be the High Priest, led them just as the Priesthood would instigate Christ's death
 - *Without a cause* they rebelled against God continually (1Ki 12:25-33; 2Ki 10:29; 17:14-18; 2Ch 11:13-17; 13:8-12; Mal 1:6-8; 2:1-9)

Finally There Was Judas

- Judas, Ish Kerioth, was an Apostle who experienced a close relationship with Christ
 - He heard the intimate teachings of Christ
 - He saw the works of Christ validating Christ's message
 - Yet, *without a cause* he betrayed Christ for paltry gain
 - As his close friend...he lifted up his heel... against Him
 - This nondescript man became pattern for every devious sinner: A snake in the grass secretly waiting to betray

Betrayal Came from Within

- Now at the end an Apostle, the Priesthood, the Pharisees (Jews) and the Romans (Gentiles) unite to extinguish the Light that revealed them as sinners
 - Lucifer's plan was probably to exert such tremendous agony on the flesh that Christ would quit, sin, being unfit to atone for sin ushering in
 - Universalism: pardon for all sinners since God sinned
 - Lucifer failed

Here is Lucifer's Logic*

- If Christ, Son of God, sinned then the Father would have to condemn Him just like any other sinner
 - Since Christ is of the same essence as the Father
 - Sinful Christ would *prove* Father was sinful
 - God would be *proven* unjust; His judgements reversed
 - Since non-existence not an option; all judgments against sin must be reversed, **including Lucifer's**
 - Then Lucifer had as much right to be God also

Christendom Betrays Christ

- Those religions which claim to be based on the Bible are in the very act of betraying the truth of Christ
- Individuals in churches claiming to be Christians, but are not, betray believers in those churches and Christ
- Christendom supporting false religions reveals itself, rebelling against Christ *without a cause*, hating His own

In Essence All Are Guilty

- Since all are born sinners everyone is guilty of hating Christ *without a cause*
 - It is only the *new nature*, by His election, that changes believers into His image, crying Abba, Daddy (Ro. 4:6)
 - The World no longer knows us now that we are His
 - The World, Lucifer and our Flesh persecutes & accuses us; our salvation exposes their *lie* of self-righteousness, sinfulness, justifying their rejection of His salvation