

John 57 – Ambassadors of Slavery or Independence

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John 17:6-12

Previous Lesson of Jesus' Prayer

- Jesus bases His prayer on
 - Deityship with the Father in eternity past
 - Authority over all creation as creator
 - Absolute unity with the Father and the Spirit though separate identity apart from the Father and the Spirit
 - His imminent sacrifice secures the New Covenant; changing eternity forever

Sign of Deityship Manifested

- The outward or empirical manifestation of Christ's glory reveals His *same substance* relationship with the Father as His Son
 - Mount of Transfiguration revealed His glory to Peter (Head), John (Youngest) and James (First to die) (Mt 17:1-13)
 - They will share this with other Apostles after His death
 - Shared with believers via the Bible indicating His Logos

Brief Review of Deity Revelation

- Jesus always revealed Himself to people apart from *pomp and circumstance* even during the Law period
- Man's fundamental belief of deityship: God separated from man and requires elaborate rituals for union
- Examples:
 - Noah builds simple Ascending Sacrifice altar to God
 - Man builds elaborate ziggurat to sacrifice to his god-man

Nimrod was the intercessor between god and society through elaborate rituals
The god's intercessory role mimicked the intercessory role of the God-Man, Christ
Except, Christ bypassed the pomp and circumstance rituals by presenting Himself to individuals in everyday life

Cultic Rituals Designed for Man

- Mosaic Law's cultic rituals designed to demonstrate separation of God and man *except* through the sacrifice
 - At Mt Horeb Hebrews refused direct communication with God; demanded an intermediary: Moses (Ex 20:18-22)
 - Lost man needed the temple, priesthood and sacrifices to reveal his worthiness to meet god(s) and goddess(es)
- Christ always communicated directly with His prophets

This was the significant aspect of the religions inaugurated during the Axial Age
In their early stages these religions bypassed the usual pomp and circumstance going directly to the individual
Over time these religions developed their own rituals demonstrating their worthiness for the god(s) acceptance

Christ Apart from the Temple

- Stumbling block for the Jews: Christ declared Himself God's Son apart from Temple and Priesthood
 - Law never designed to save; only to reveal sin & Christ (Ro 7:13, 21-6:14)
- Christ's manifestation of God's Gospel apart from the works and pomp of the Law removed elitism (1Co 1:20-29)
 - New Covenant salvation reaches out to each person (true egalitarianism): everyone equally sinful before God

Priesthood Elitists Sinners

- Sanhedrin, priesthood and Pharisees: Elitists who saw all others as ignorant; unworthy of God's grace (Jn 7:45-49)
 - Jesus coming as humble commoner offended them (Jn 5:11-3)
 - Jesus teaching the unlettered masses offended them
 - Jesus' apostles being unlearned offended them (Ac 4:13)
- Elitists expected God to come via Temple praising them for their piety and knowledge of His Laws (Lk 18:9-14)
The Elitist could not accept that they were also condemned by God even more than the masses
This was their major complain against God: He did not meet their expectations
They ignored the fact that they did not meet His criteria for righteousness; i.e., needed salvation

Humility is no Virtue Either

- Christ clearly states that all persons designated for salvation are called by the Father and given to the Son
 - Poorness, humility or poverty are not markers of people chosen of God; these are also works of the flesh (Ep 2:8-10)
 - God chose before eternity whom He would save (Ep 1:3-10)
 - He gave these to Christ who holds them in His hand (Jo 10:27-30)
 - Clear message: None righteous except the Son (Ro 3:10-18)
God chose whom He would save based on His own grace irrespective of the individual
This is true equality as God ignored all talents, abilities and accomplishments as criteria
In fact, these issues are impediments to salvation, not signs of righteousness as the Elitists demonstrate

True Mark of Salvation

- Just as Christ's transfiguration manifested the Father's glory in Him; so also those who are saved will manifest the Father's Word given to them by Christ in their lives
 - Apostles, in so far as possible before the Spirit, were revealing God's Logos (word): Sign of a changed heart (1Sa 10:1-9)
 - Elitists were revealing source of their faith: Satan (Jo 8:44)
 - Source of one's faith revealed by works of faith (Jo 2:15-20)
The issue is never about worship; everyone continually worships (reveals source of right and wrong)
The Lost reveal their worship of Satan continually as they seek rightness based on self-worth
The Saved vacillate between worship of Christ and Satan while in the fleshly bodies

Father: Source of *All* Righteousness

- Apostles understand Christ is the intercessor to the Father and received everything He taught from Father
 - This belief does not come from within; it is taught by the Spirit from the Father (Jh 16:15-17)
- Elitists believe they are the source of their knowledge, but it too comes from another: Lucifer (Jh 8:44)
 - Man is born with nothing but sin; thus, all is vanity (Ec 1:1-14)

Christ Gave God's Words

- Christ clearly elucidates that all the words (ῥήματα) He taught were from the Father and not His own
 - Belief in Christ is predicated on this premise which is foreign to the sinner's mind
 - Lucifer sought to be *independent* of God (Jh 14:12-14; Ec 28:12-17)
 - Sinners seek *independent* from God; this is their religion
 - Christians are as *dependent* on Christ as He is on Father (Jh 15:1-9)

Blow to Independence

- Christ not independent of the Father and believers *not* independent of Christ or Father; i.e., even their salvation is not of the believer's choosing or will
 - Christ does not pray for those who are not His sheep
 - He prays for those chosen from *eternity past* for salvation
- The world seeks *independence* from God and He *allows* them *independence* as they demand (Rebellion) (Ro 1:18-32)

Emptiness of Independence

- Independence from God means that one is a slave to another: There is no independent or freedom (Ro 6:15-18)
 - Since we are creations of God, we are either slaves to Him to life evidenced by fruits of the Spirit or (Ga 5:22-24)
 - Slaves to sin as demonstrated by the works of the flesh, which is our natural state since Adam sinned (Ga 5:16-21)
 - Thus, independence from God is slavery to Lucifer and his fate (Law of Excluded Middle) (Ro 20:11-15)

Law of Excluded Middle means there is no third option; i.e., one is either Lost or Saved
This is distinct from the False Dilemma which limits legitimate options, commonly used tactic
The Elitists frequently used the False Dilemma to force Christ to an unholy conclusion; which He avoided

Christ Key to Unity with Father

- Christ makes a logical argument as the foundation for His coming request which is the purpose of His prayer
 - All mine are yours
 - All yours are mine
 - I am glorified in them (First Apostles then all believers)
 - As Christ and Father are unified so also are believers unified with Christ evidenced by His glory, salvation, in them based on Father's words, not on their works

Simple syllogism argument: Father is one with Christ; Christ is one with the Father;
All believers are one with Christ; Therefore, all believers are also one with the Father
Thus, there can only be ONE faith, ONE baptism, ONE Father, etc. (Ep 4:4-7, 11-14)

Relationship to the World

- Purpose of this prayer contained in the concept of being *in the world*; not *of the world*
 - Soon Christ will no longer be in the world due to His Paschal Lamb sacrifice
 - On His resurrection He will no longer have a *flesh and blood* body but a new body; thus, still not in the world
 - Apostles will remain in the world without visible Christ

Father as Guardian

- Christ prays that the Father guard the Apostles who must remain in the world after He leaves the world
 - Just as Christ did *nothing* apart from the Father's will; all was through the power of the Spirit
 - Christ prays the same relationship exists between the Father and the Apostles based on the Apostles having the Father's name (salvation) and thus unified with the Father via the Son and the Spirit (Parakletoi)

In Your Name

- Idiom: In Your Name - Means one does not speak on one's own authority but on the authority of the one who sent the speaker (Messenger or Ambassador)
 - Christ spoke in the Father's name (authority)
 - Apostles evidence the Father's name (authority) via the Son who shared the Father's name with them
 - Thus, Apostles will remain as the Father's messengers in the world after Christ leaves, spreading Father's words

Christ Was Their Guardian

- Christ adds that He was their guardian while He was with them; however, He will be returning to the Father leaving them in the world, only *apparently* alone OMG 13:19-20!
 - No person can stand in the world except empowered by the Father via the Spirit; not even Christ tried to do this
 - Christ asks the Father to watch over these *elected* men to spread His (Father's) salvation out into the world like Christ

Christ Lost No One

- Christ's reveals He lost no one given to Him by Father
 - Judas Ish Kerioth was an Apostle demonstrating the *natural man* will not accept God's truths; regardless of signs
 - This *man of destruction* sought to destroy Christ simply for paltry gain; for any great cause (Just like people now)
 - However, his actions, and Lucifer's, only brought about their own destruction ensuring Christ's glorification

Scripture Fulfilled

- The *natural mind* interprets the phrase, "that the Scripture might be fulfilled" as Christ committing an evil by allowing Judas to remain lost
 - Assumption is that a special appeal from Christ would move Judas to abandon his sin and embrace salvation
 - This is a *free will* or heretical Arminian view point
 - Scripture fulfilled as Christ *allowed* Judas to keep his independence from God as he chose to remain in sin

The Lost want to argue from a False Dilemma position that allows them to condemn God regardless of one's position
God is guilty of evil if He forces Judas Ish to be saved and God is guilty if He allows Judas Ish to be independent
Judas could have left at any time and not betrayed Christ; fact that he chose to remain puts onus on him, not Christ

In the World-Not of the World

- Christ's prayer asks the Father to protect the Apostles while they work in the world spreading His salvation
 - Apostles have no power of their own; nor do we today
 - Totally dependent on the Father, as was the Son
 - Have not the power to refrain from the world except by the will of the Father in the power of the Spirit
- This applies to believers today also as we shall discover