



**While There Be Those That Hate Her
John 15:21-27**

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

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

23 "He who hates Me hates My Father also.

24 "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.

25 "But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

It is the night of Christ's betrayal, the night before His Crucifixion, and Jesus as you will remember is preparing His Disciples for what is to come after that. He has been explaining something that often seems incomprehensible to believers. Why would the covenant people reject the Messiah when He appeared? Why would they not believe in Him, especially when He had fulfilled so many prophecies, done so many works, that is miracles, signs and wonders before them. Why would they hate Him with such a vehemence that they would not rest until they had put Him to death. And after that, why would they so relentlessly persecute His followers?

Jesus answers all of these questions, and once again He points out that believing in Him is not a matter of the **head** but of the **heart**. Contrary to popular belief, it isn't a lack of evidence, or a failure of logic that prevents men from believing in Jesus. There is in fact plenty of both. Jesus says the cause is a stubborn and willful disbelief that springs from an illogical and baseless hatred of God.

Jesus points to His miracles in verse 24 and the fact that no one else had done them. For instance, while Prophets in the Old Testament had sometimes been used of God to heal, not one of them had ever restored sight to a man born blind, not one of them had raised a man who had been dead and decomposing for several days, as Jesus had with Lazarus. None of them had calmed a storm with a command or walked across the surface of a Lake. Jesus had done all of these things and many more. But because of their hatred instead of receiving and accepting the overwhelming evidence they suppress it, ignore it, deny it.

How can someone do that? Well you all know the way that irrational love can blind someone to evidence. How often have you encountered someone who is so in love they cannot see the obvious faults of the person they love, and I'm not referring just to the media. You've all probably met people who fall in love and from that point onwards that person can do no wrong. Well hate can easily do

something similar, when someone is hated they can do no right and even the strongest evidence in their favor will be suppressed or dismissed. Most of you are probably familiar with the plot of "To Kill A Mockingbird" at a certain point in the trial the evidence makes it obvious that the accused could not have committed the crime, but blind hate brings in a guilty verdict. That has happened in history, for instance in France in 1894 a Captain by the name of Dreyfus was convicted of treason by the French Army. During the trial they actually suppressed evidence that would have exonerated him and pointed in the direction of another officer. *Why?* Because Dreyfus was a Jew and the other officer was not.

But how could the people of God hate and reject God? That too was nothing new, it went all the way back to the garden and Adam's first sin. Adam rebelled against God, and from that point on, all of His posterity were born with Hearts inclined to do the same thing. As God Himself declared in Genesis 8:21 "*the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth.*" Throughout the Old Testament the people of God were constantly turning away from the Living God who loved them and had delivered them countless times and instead they loved and worshipped worthless idols of their creation and mortal men.

When the people asked the Prophet Samuel for a king, he couldn't understand it he thought the problem was Him. The Lord corrects Him:

1 Sam. 8:7 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.

8 "According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day -- with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods -- so they are doing to you also.

Jesus tells His followers the same thing. They don't hate you because of you, it's not because you aren't kind enough, or not concerned enough, or not trendy enough, they hate you because of me. And they hate me, because though they claim to know my Father, they don't know Him at all. They hate Him and rebel against Him.

They Jews in Samuel's day didn't want God to rule over them, they wanted an idol of their own devising, and so to when Jesus came, he was not the "Messiah" the King they wanted at all. He didn't fit the image of the Messiah they had created for themselves and so they rejected Him. And incidentally men today do the same thing, they don't like the Jesus they find in the bible, so they reject that one and often they create a false Jesus who fits their desires. I find that everyone *wants* A Messiah, but only God's elect want **THE MESSIAH**.

Now in verse 24 when Jesus says "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin" he doesn't mean that the people would have been sinless if He hadn't come into the world. He means they are far, far, more culpable for not believing. Their sin was worse, far worse, than those who had not had the benefit of the revelation of the Son of God with all of His miracles, and so it will go far worse for them in the final judgment. Turn if you would to Matthew 11:21:

Matthew 11:21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

22 "But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.

23 "And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

24 "But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."

Now I want to draw your attention to the importance that Jesus puts on His miracles, especially because so many like Thomas Jefferson with his scissors have attempted to construct a Christianity without miracles:

John 10:38 "but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."

John 14:11 "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

These miracles were so well known that Peter appealed to them

Acts 2:22 " Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know --

23 "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

24 "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

Perhaps like Thomas Jefferson and the deists, you too are seeking for a "non-miraculous Jesus" and "non-miraculous" Christianity. A religion of good morals and family values, but nothing as outlandish as miracles. You want a reasonable religion, with a good teacher who taught some nice things 2000 years ago and then died, but no six day creation, no parting of the Red Sea, no men being in the belly of the Whale for three days, no virgin birth, no walking on water, no healing the Blind, and no real, flesh and blood resurrection of Jesus three days dead. Jesus, the conservative moral teacher, yes! Jesus the Crucified and Resurrected Son of God? No. But friend, I want you to understand, the Jesus who didn't rise from the dead is not the Jesus of the Bible, the Jesus of History. That Jesus is an idol, it may be the Jesus you want, but it isn't the Jesus God sent or the Jesus who the Apostles preached, and a faith in that false Jesus is futile, empty, and useless.

12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up -- if in fact the dead do not rise.

16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

To love that false non-miraculous Jesus, is to hate and deny the real risen Jesus. And know this if you don't know that Jesus you don't know God, you can't know God, for as Jesus said *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

But Jesus wanted those disciples that night and you to know that the unbelief and rejection in no way thwarts God's redemptive works! Their rejection of Christ did not take God unawares, rather that too was the fulfillment of scripture as Christ says here referring to the Psalm 35 and Psalm 69.

Psalm 69:4 Those who hate me without a cause Are more than the hairs of my head; They are mighty who would destroy me, Being my enemies wrongfully; Though I have stolen nothing, I still must restore it.

If God's anointed King, David could be hated without cause, how much more David's greater Son, the Messiah Jesus Christ.

And it is God who ultimately makes the decision between who will believe and who will reject, **He** has mercy on whom **He** wills, and whom **He** wills **He hardens** or as Jesus said:

Matthew 11: 25 At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.

26 "Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

First Application: To those of you who truly believe, who have closed by Faith with the Lord Jesus Christ, who are often discouraged as you see how the world scorns your savior, twists and maligns his word, covers up the evidence, and refuses to even let His word be heard in the public square. And perhaps you shake your head and say, how can the church continue in the face of such hatred and willful unbelief?

Take heart, brothers and sisters, this is nothing new. The world scorned you master and rejected His testimony when it was first offered and said we will not allow this man to speak these things in public any more. Crucify Him! If they treated Jesus that way, why would you think they would treat his church any differently? But take heart, it has ever been and ever will be just as we sang in the hymn:

**Though there be those who hate her,
And false sons in her pale,
Against both foe or traitor
She ever shall prevail.**

And why? Because Jesus has said He loves His Church, and He will never leave Her or Forsake her.

**The Church shall never perish!
Her dear Lord to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish,
Is with her to the end:**

Yes, the church will face opposition, this too is written in the Word. But perish from the earth She will not. So don't fear the ACLU, the Media, the People for the American Way, any of the other Christ hating forces out there, and that includes of course false religionists. The worst resistance to the preaching of the gospel doesn't come from Atheists, it inevitably comes from people who would in

some way associate themselves with the church. That too shouldn't surprise you, it was the covenant people in Christ's time who were rejecting Him.

Also Do not think for a moment you must compromise your witness in order to survive. Just keep doing what Christ told you to for as long as he told you to: **Matthew 28:18** *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*

19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. How long did He tell us to do that? EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE!

Second Application: You who are hearing me today, have even greater privileges than the Jews of Christ's day. Now you may say, "*how do you figure that?, we didn't see the miracles of Christ, he wasn't standing before us!*" No but you have heard of His works and His words again and again, heard the promises, received the offers of grace from the messengers of the King. And you are surrounded by Christian resources as never before in History. The Jew's who listened to Jesus didn't have a complete bible as you do, most of them didn't even have their own copies of the Law and the Prophets. I would bet that most of you have MORE than one copy of the Bible and certainly you have unprecedented access to preaching and teaching via books, videos, and the internet. These Jews would have heard Christ while he was alive a few times at most. Many of you will spend most of your lives hearing His words. And each time your responsibility grows greater and greater.

Luke 12:47 "And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

48 "But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

I have to tell you in truth, whenever I preach I am mindful of Paul's words in 2 Cor. 2:15-16 "For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?" That thought terrifies me, to those of you who are not saved, who are perishing, every sermon adds to your condemnation, and the saddest part is, it doesn't terrify you! If it did you would cry out "*what must I do to be saved?*"

But you don't, instead you say we know, we know, we've heard it all before. And you go away from church, and continue on walking down the broad way. That's nothing new, JC Ryle wrote in his day:

Nothing is more common than to hear men taking comfort in the thought that they "know what" is right, while at the same time they are evidently unconverted, and unfit to die. They rest in that unhappy phrase, "We know it, we know it," as if knowledge could wash away all their sins--forgetting that the devil has more knowledge than any of us, and yet is no better for it. Let the burning words of our Lord in the passage now before us, sink down into our hearts, and never be forgotten--"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they would not be guilty of sin--but now they have no cloak for their sin." To see light and not use it, to possess knowledge and yet not turn it to account, to be able to say "I know," and yet not to say "I believe," will place us at the lowest place on Christ's left hand, in the great day of judgment.

Nothing is more common this day than false, carnal Christianity, where everyone hears the will of God, but no one does it.

It's not enough to hear and to know, you must also DO. As James said, "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:21-22) A true faith, a living faith, is working faith.

Have you closed with Christ, are you walking with Him today, or are you storing up Judgment? I beg you, don't say foolishly "not enough evidence." Rather ask Him, beg Him to open your eyes to accept the abundant evidence and flee to the Lamb of God who alone can take away your sin.