

CHAPTER FIVE
 LOVE IN CONFLICT
 John 15:17-25

Submission + Surrender
 Are the keys to Abiding

TEXT

- v. 17 This I am commanding you that you should be loving one another.
- v. 18 If the world is hating you, you are knowing that it has hated Me before it hated you.
- v. 19 If you were of the world, the world would be loving its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, on this account the world is hating you.
- v. 20 Be remembering the word which I spoke 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.
- v. 21 But all these things they will do to you for my name's sake, because they are not knowing the one who sent me.
- v. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have had sin. But now they are not having an excuse for their sin.
- v. 23 He who is hating Me, is hating my Father also.
- v. 24 If I did not do the works among them, which no other one did, they would not have sin. But now they have both seen and hated Me and my Father as well.
- v. 25 But in order that the word which in their law stands written might be fulfilled: 'They hated me without reason.'

Lee Trevino:
 "Even God couldn't
 hit A one iron..."

Mustang
 Aggie
 Longhorn
 Old McDonald
 had A _____
 Farm - spell - e i e i o

7 to bury An Aggie
 6 to Garry
 1 For the chair
 For Rig to
 Sit in...

INTRODUCTION

John Hunter in his book Finding God's Best says, "Some months ago, I was in Vietnam in Dalat working with the tribal people in the village of Sutong. The day before my arrival, Viet Cong gorillas had shot and killed a young man of that village. The tribal pastor came to Dalat to give the news to John Newman, in whose home I was staying. John translated for me what the pastor said. He spoke of the young man's parents, how they had trusted Christ over twenty years ago in the mountains. He told of the sufferings and tragedies that had filled their lives. He recounted how they had lost eleven children and now this was the twelfth bereavement in their family. They had only one

Howdy Stranger
 ① Cleaning up AFTER Run At Raquet Club, laid my keys on the bench, Toweling Myself OFF Getting Ready to dress.
 ② little 4yr. old dude dressed in cowboy boots, jeans etc hat, holsters + guns.
 ③ Stomped on my toes w/ the heel of his cowboy boots grabbed my keys + proceeded to run out of the locker room saying: "I Got your keys + you can't have them back. They Naked As Jay bird some Love in Conflict"

Marriages have it And You can either
 be bitter or Better As A result of it!!

I'm still doing the bunny hop when a big man walks in and says: Are these yours!

child left and he was a helpless cripple. Then the pastor, overcome with grief and compassion, tried to describe how the parents were facing this bitter blow. He said, 'They are standing. Standing like a tree.' He was searching for an apt simile and he found it. 'Standing like a tree.' Tossed in the storms, branches broken, battered and bewildered, yet it stood firm because the roots were deep in the solid rock."

How's it going? Great!! How many there are who suffer & hurt. Son killed - Terminal cancer - Broken marriage. Shattered Dreams.

Howard Butt in his book The Velvet Colored Brick says, "Can you imagine what a diamond goes through becoming a diamond? It starts out deep in the earth's bowels as a lump of coal. Endlessly, it is burned. If carbon could talk, what would it say? 'Stop, you're hurting me, stop, stop, I can't stand it.' But, you're becoming a diamond, you tell it. 'The heat is refining you.' 'I don't want to be a diamond. Leave me a lump of coal. It hurts too much. I can't stand this burning.' And you reply, 'You stupid stone, you are receiving the highest compliment that could come to you. You will be mined and cut and polished. Your pain will exalt you. Soon you will become a solid piece of flashing fire. Whether the diamond can believe you or not doesn't change the fact. Jewels are only optimistic rocks."

Fenelon in his book Let Go says, "You have great need of the power of the Holy Spirit, both to sustain you in this time of trouble and also to restrain you in your natural desire to find a way out."

John Claypool in his book Tracks of a Fellow Struggler says, "We do feel a certain kinship with those who have experienced what we are experiencing. And the God who came in Christ established just such a bond of closeness. During World War II, just after word had arrived that an only son had been killed in battle, a minister was called to the home of his parents. The father, half in grief and half in rage blurted out as soon as the minister arrived, 'I want to know, where was God when my son was being killed?' The minister thought a long time and then replied softly, 'I guess where He was while His boy was being killed.' This word had a revolutionary impact on the distraught man, for it brought God out of the remoteness into that circle as a grieving companion."

Phil. 1:29 why me? why this why now when is it going to quit hurting when am I going to feel better!

Beth Jameson in her book Hold Me Tight having heard of Kim's leukemia says, "God, I feel as if I'm losing my sense of survival. I feel like a coach who has to be a competitor, too, in order for there to be a contest at all. Kim is running a race and I am her teammate. I don't have the strength, do I? Does she? It's really like running a race against time and circumstance, not knowing if the finish line will be around the corner of tomorrow or a year of tomorrows. One of us won't finish at all. I must pace myself, take a deep breath, plan my strategy, plot the game plan. Surely this first lap of shock will be the hardest. It's got to slack up. I must give Kim the incentive to keep running at whatever pace, at whatever cost. She must develop the will to run without the flag of victory in sight. Is that possible? Come on, baby, I'm right beside you. We're a team now. Run, reach out for that relay stick of hope when it comes back around. Grab it, hang on and go."

Mom's

Paula D'Arcy in her book Song for Sarah says, "If we fuss about our lives, if we make clothes and houses and work and events of great importance, then in the end we'll get fooled. In the end they are so temporary. There was to be something more, but I missed it. I counted on tomorrow and I counted on the two of you. I easily put off the question of what really matters, of what gives life meaning, of what is directing my life. Always so busy, and now here I am with plenty of time, fingering your father's bathrobe and holding you stuffed bumble bee. I'll keep them both in my closet. I want to remember what gets left behind until I can find that something which doesn't."

Husband & Daughter

Beth Jameson in Hold Me Tight says that Kim expressed her real fear at the time of dying. "Mom, it occurred to me that I might not get well at all, ever. Any time I was sick before, I was always thinking, 'Now, when I get well, I'm going to do this and that.' And how I was going to catch up on all the stuff I missed being sick. Getting well always followed getting sick, but that's not true is it? Sometimes, dying follows being sick. You know, I think that's what's happening to me, Mom. I think I'm dying and I'm scared. I know I'll be in heaven, but I'm scared of getting there and I'm confused because I'm just a kid. I'm not ready yet, there's so much living left to do, Mom."

Kim's

Acts 7:54-60 "These words stung them to fury and they ground their teeth at him in rage. Stephen, filled through all his being with the Holy Spirit, looked steadily up into heaven. He saw the glory of God and Jesus Himself, standing at his right hand. 'Look,' he exclaimed, 'the heavens are opened and I can see the Son of man standing at God's right hand.' At this they put their fingers in their ears, yelling with fury. As one man, they made a rush at him and hustled him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses of the execution flung their clothes at the feet of a young man by the name of Saul. So they stoned Stephen while he called upon God and said, 'Jesus, Lord, receive my spirit.' Then on his knees, he cried in ringing tones, 'Lord, forgive them for this sin.' And with these words, he fell into the sleep of death, while Saul gave silent assent to his execution."

Stephen

Matthew 27:26ff "Whereupon Pilate released Barabbas for them, but he had Jesus flogged and handed over for crucifixion. Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's palace and collected the whole guard around Him. There they stripped him and put a scarlet cloak upon Him. They twisted some thorn twigs into a crown and put it on his head, and put a stick into his right hand. They bowed low before Him and jeered at Him with the words, 'Hail, your majesty, king of the Jews.' Then they spat on him, took the stick and hit him on the head with it and when they had finished their fun, they stripped the cloak off again, put his own clothes upon him & led him off for crucifixion. On their way out of the city, they met a man called Simon, a native of Cyrene in Africa and they compelled him to carry Jesus' cross. Then when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means skull hill, they offered him a drink of wine mixed with some bitter drug, but when He had tasted it, he refused to drink. And when they had nailed him to the cross, they shared out his clothes by drawing lots and they sat down to keep guard over him and over his head they put a placard with the charge against him. 'This is Jesus, the king of the Jews.' Now two bandits were crucified with Jesus at the same time, one on either side of Him. The passers-by nodded their heads knowingly and called out to him in mockery, 'Hi, you who could pull down the temple and build it up again in three days. Why don't you save yourself? If you are the Son of God, step down from the cross.' The chief priest also joined the scribes and elder in jeering at him saying, 'He saved others, but

Jesus!

He can't save Himself. If this is the king of Israel, why doesn't He come down from the cross now and we will believe Him. He trusted in God, let God rescue Him if He will have anything to do with Him. For He said, 'I am God's son.' Even the bandits who were crucified with Him hurled abuse at Him. Then from mid-day until three o'clock, darkness spread over the whole countryside, and then Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'My God, my God, why did you forsake me?' Some of those who were standing there, heard these words which Jesus spoke in Aramaic, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' and said 'This man is calling for Elijah.' And one of them ran off and fetched the sponge, soaked it in vinegar and put it on a long stick and held it up for him to drink. But the others said, 'Let him alone.' Let's see if Elijah will come and save Him.' But Jesus gave one more great cry and died."

We are considering together the Love Story in John 13-17. In

Chapter 1 we saw LOVE SERVING as Christ stooped to wash the disciples feet.

Chapter 2 we saw LOVE HURT as Judas betrayed his Lord.

Chapter 3 we saw LOVE COMMUNICATING as Christ patiently answered the questions of Peter, Thomas Philip, and Judas Thaddaeus Lebbaeus

Chapter 4 we studied LOVE IN UNION. We are branches in the vine, in order that the Father may be glorified by much fruit.

We come now in Chapter 5 to LOVE IN CONFLICT. This is love facing its enemy.

"Agape" Love Produced by God + Hated by the world...

1 Thessalonians 3:3 & 4 "So that no man may be disturbed by these afflictions for yourselves know that we have been destined for this. For indeed, when we were with you, we kept telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction and so it came to pass as you know."

Matthew 5:10-12 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted on account of righteousness for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they shall heap insults upon you, and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely on account of Me. Rejoice and be glad because your reward in heaven is great. For in this manner, they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

I Peter 2:21 "For even here unto:" -

3rd v. 17 This I am commanding you that you shall be loving one another.

2nd John 15:12 "This is my commandment that you keep on loving one another just as I loved you."

2nd John-13:34 & 35 "A new commandment I am giving to you, that you should be continually loving one another, even as I loved you; that you also be loving one another. In this way all will know that you are my disciples if you are having love for one another."

Laurin points out, "To be filled with love is to be possessed of the greatest force in the world. We love people not because of what they are, but because of what they can become. Love wins when everything else fails."

Weeks points out, "These precepts are given by Jesus in order that they might love one another with a Christ-like love. The full enjoyment of Christ's love is experienced as believers channel that love to other Christians. Christ's love is a love which is in full submission to the Father. A love which is sacrificial and a love which fulfills the demands of the new commandment and which is characteristic of the one who abides in Christ. Fellowship with Christ is promoted through Christ-like love for one another. Every believer has been redeemed so that he might be a representative for Christ in the world. In order for that representation to be accurate, the life of Christ must be seen in the life of every believer."

When Christ says something, it's really important and when He says it twice, it is exceedingly important. And when He says it the third time, He meant for us to really pay attention. He has now commanded love for one another three times in this discourse.

Need the Love Support to Face the Conflict !!

Reuben Welch in his book We Really Do Need Each Other says, "I love them and care very much about them, but I do not own them and cannot control what they do, nor act as judge over what they do. I have no alternative-- I must release them. And the marvelous, happy, surprising thing is this:

Persons change in that atmosphere of releasing, unjudging love!

I don't mean that it's a refined, Christian way of getting people to do what you want them to--but caring, releasing unjudging love deliberately given in the love of Jesus becomes the agent for beautiful change in a person's life.

But oh, the spirit of judgment. Do you know how to be happy with a group of people for a long time? Don't judge. A spirit of judgment will kill the honeymoon. That's precisely the point that brings about the old proverb--

If you can keep the young converts away from the old saints long enough to get established, you'll be alright--

because the old saints have been touched with a spirit of cynicism and judgment.

Someone new comes into the church and says, 'Isn't the pastor marvelous' and 'Isn't the choir fantastic' and I can just hear the old saint--

"Dearie, you just wait around awhile--you'll see."

That's true, isn't it? It's not right, but it's true. To the newcomer, it's just heaven on earth in the community. But let them hang around awhile and our cynicism will get them. It's catching, isn't it? It's the plague.

That deadly spirit of judgment is indeed the plague. But love, Jesus' kind of love, has the releasing, affirming power to stay the plague and heal our lives. What a handle--

I love you
I release you
I will not judge you.

We really do need each other. All this talk about love is not something ethereal and distant. It has handles that reach right down to where we are. Let's pray a moment together.

omit

*Remember
watch
we really
do need
each other*

Lord Jesus, help us to learn to show love. Help us
to take time to listen
to give our attention to the ones around us
to be more aware of the sensitivities of others.
Help us to see people as people--as real live people
with feelings and concerns that are just like ours.
Help us Lord, not to judge and help us not to allow
our cynicism to deprive others of joy. Teach us Lord,
to love in deed and in spirit. Amen.

Gary Inrig in his book Quality Friendship says, "It is so easy to give up on people, to write them off, but the love of the Lord Jesus toward me is incredibly persistent. I fail and fall and sin, yet he keeps on wrapping his arms of love around me and drawing me to himself. Because he loves me like that, I am to love others like that with a self-giving, long-suffering, persevering love. The first great quality is that it suffers long. It does not give up on people and it does not seek revenge. There is a cost to that. After all, suffering hurts. It is not what we would choose but love suffers and suffers long because it longs to serve."

It was Paul Harvey who said, "There should, indeed, be a penalty for flagrant expressions of disrespect. Yet we should have learned by now that love cannot be legislated."

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.
Where there is hatred let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

v. 18 If the world is hating you, you are knowing that it has hated Me before it hated you.

The world's response to agape love is hatred. We ask ourselves the question, Why does the world hate us? And we realize that the answer to this is that the world is convicted by the life that it sees demonstrated in the Christian.

* John 3:19-21 "This is the condemnation that light has come into the world and men love darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light and does not come to the light lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the light that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

Stedman points out, "The world, as our Lord says, both hates and loves. It loves what conforms to it. It hates what differs with it. We have all experienced this. We know that even in small, non-religious matters, the world can hate anything which does not conform to it. I read the other day that the man who invented the umbrella was pelted with rotten eggs and vegetables and stones when he first tried it out on a public street. No one else had one, you see. So the world loves to destroy that which does not fit its pattern. This is why the Scriptures urge us to not be conformed to the world around us. Do not let the world squeeze you into its own mold. For it desperately dislikes anything which differs with it and will try to change it. If we do not conform to the world, if the church is worldly, not so much in terms of its actions, but in having certain attitudes, if the church trusts in its own power and seeks for prestige and status and acts as though God does not add anything to it, then the world loves the church and will pat it on the back and praise it and exalt it, but it hates and stands against any church which is true to its Lord."

The Lord is bringing comfort to his followers here as well as warning. The warning is: The world is probably going to be hating you. And the comfort is: You are knowing that it has hated Me before it hated you.

It is obvious by the response to the Lord's ministry of the hatred of even the religious establishment of the day; and in cooperation with the Roman government hated him so much they had Him crucified.

Johnston points out, "The disciple maker, as he abides and bears lasting fruit, will encounter persecution. But as he depends on the Holy Spirit and experiences joy, he should be assured a victory and expect it, for it has already been claimed by the Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

We can heartily agree with Bruce, 'The grand fact is that Christ's victory is the victory of his followers and insures that they too, shall conquer.' Jesus fought His battle, not as a private person, but as a public character, as a representative man and all are welcome to claim the benefits of His victory;

the pardon of sin,
power to resist the evil one,
admission into the everlasting kingdom.

Because Christ has overcome we may say to all, Be of good cheer."

Wecks points out, "Full enjoyment of the Christian life is possible through a close fellowship and communion with Jesus Christ. That intimate relationship with Christ is promoted through Christ-like love for other believers. Jesus has spoken of a love which flourishes within the circle of believers who tap their life of love from the source, Jesus Christ. When Jesus finished speaking of the vital relationship of the disciples to himself and the closeness of the disciples to one another, He began to tell of the relationship of the disciples to the outside world."

There are three things that we can note in these verses:

- ① The believer will be persecuted because of his identification with Christ.
- ② Christ was persecuted because of His identification with the Father.
- ③ Jesus has predicted the severity and senselessness of the persecutions.

Ironside tells a story to illustrate this point. "Years ago at the time of the opening of inland Africa, the wife of an African chief happened to visit a mission station. The missionary had a little mirror hung up on a tree outside his home and the woman happened to glance into it. She had come straight out of her pagan environment and had never seen the hideous paintings on her face, or her hardened features. Now gazing at her own face, she was startled. She asked the missionary, 'Who is that horrible looking person inside the tree?' 'It is not the tree,' said the missionary. 'The glass is reflecting your own face.' She could not believe it until she was holding the mirror in her hand. When she had understood, she said to the missionary, 'I must have the glass. How much will you sell it for?' The missionary did not want to sell his mirror, but she insisted so strongly that in the end he thought it would be better to sell it to her and thus avoid trouble. A price was set and she took the glass. Fiercely she said, 'I will never have it making faces at me again.' She threw it down and broke it to pieces. Men and women hated the Lord Jesus Christ for much the same reason. That is why they hate Him today and hate the Bible. Christ in God's word reveal our true selves and we do not like the revelation."

v. 19 If you were of the world, the world would be loving its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, on this account the world is hating you.

What our Lord is making clear here at this point is that if we were a part of the world, and conforming to it, the world would be loving its own; but by contrast, because we are negatively not of the world, but by contrast, He chose us out of the world, on this account the world is hating us.

John 15:16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you, in order that you might keep on going and keep on bearing fruit and that your fruit might keep on remaining, in order that whatever you might ask the Father in my name, He may give to you."

Rom. 12:2

F. B. Meyer points out, "Thousands of Christians are like water logged vessels. They cannot sink, but they are so saturated with inconsistencies and worldliness and permitted evil that they can only be towed with great difficulty into the celestial port."

A man who is shipwrecked on an island does not scribble a note on a piece of paper and throw it into the ocean. He takes a bottle, puts the note inside, seals it the best he can, and then throws it into the ocean. Our heavenly Father also seals us and throws us into this world. As long as we do not let the world get inside us, we are alright. But once the world gets inside, our message is destroyed for those around us.

When we come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour, we are baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ and then we are sealed by His Holy Spirit until the day of redemption.

1 John 2:15 & 16 "Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him; for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever."

2 Timothy 4:10 "For Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica."

Although the blue or sulphur-bottom whale is the largest and most powerful animal this world has ever known, he is completely helpless out of water. He needs the sea to help him support his 150 tons of body weight. When washed ashore, he can neither move nor long endure the crushing weight of his body against his lungs. In the sea, however, this huge mammal is quite at home. He often leaps completely out of the water, just for the sheer joy of it. He can travel as fast as 22 miles an hour. He can also dive straight down a good half mile. His eyes are kept safe from salt water by an oily substance, that constantly runs over and off the eyes like tears. Even in the coldest water a thick blanket of fatty blubber that overlays his muscles controls his body temperature. The blue whale feeds solely on small crustaceans which live under the water's surface. What a great, wise Creator-God we have!

When we are rightly related to our environment in Jesus Christ, he is going to protect and provide for us abundantly. It is when we try to change this environment and do something different, like conforming to the patterns of the world around us, that we get ourselves into trouble.

Wecks points out, "Though believers may experience a close love relationship to Jesus Christ and other believers, they may also expect to be hated by the world as predicted by Christ. If they should undergo persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ, they are to consider it a privilege to be so identified with Jesus that they suffer what He suffered because of His identification with the Father. Though the Christian's very life may seem to be in jeopardy, he can rest assured that his suffering for Christ's sake is pleasing to God; because Jesus himself suffered and predicted that his followers would suffer too. A believer must remain true to Jesus Christ as he remembers His words."

Van Doren points out, "The children of this world as distinguished from the children of God, are characterized in three ways:

1. They are governed by sense
2. They are living for the present
3. They are ruled by the opinions and customs of men.

v. 20 Be remembering the word which I spoke 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.

This verse begins with a command, to be remembering the word which He had spoken to them; which was 'a slave is not greater than his master.' He then cites two illustrations of this. 'If they persecuted Me' and it's obvious that they did, 'they will also persecute you.' And secondly, 'if they kept my word, they will keep yours also.'

Luke 9:23 "And He was saying to them all, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

v. 21 "But all these things they will do to you for my name's sake, because they are not knowing the one who sent me."

The reason there's going to be so much persecution and them doing all these things will be for His name's sake; and the reason being, 'they are not knowing the one who sent me.' (They have not come to know) the Father. And as a result of not knowing Him, they are hating both the one whom He sent and the ones whom Jesus is getting ready to send. → *MAT 7:21-22*
T.J.

v. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have had sin. But now they are not having any excuse for their sin.

Christ says here:

1. If I had not come
2. Spoken to them, then they would not have had sin.

The reason that now they have sin is because He has come and He has spoken a message to them and they have not responded. But by contrast, now they are not having any excuse for their sin.

Romans 1:20 "For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen; being understood through what has been made; so that they are without excuse."

If You died tonight what excuse would you give? Don't have one!

One is reminded of the Sermon on the Mount, when Christ spoke so convincingly to them of the fact that He came to fulfill the Law and the prophets. And on six different occasions, He spoke the words of the Law and then exceeded those words of the Law with statements of His own.

Matthew 5:20 "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven."

John 3:19 & 20 "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world and men love the darkness rather than the light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light and does not come to the light lest his deeds should be exposed."

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness; but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance."

Revelation 20:11-15 "And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it from whose presence earth and heaven fled away and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small standing before the throne and books were opened and another book was opened, which is the Book of Life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. And death and Hades were thrown into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death, the Lake of Fire. If anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the Lake of Fire."

Paul Little in his book Know Why You Believe cites the following experience. "A student once told me I had satisfactorily answered all his questions. 'Are you going to become a Christian?' I asked. 'No,' he replied. Puzzled, I asked 'Why not?' He admitted, 'Frankly, because it would mess up the way I'm living.' He realized that the real issue for him was not intellectual, but moral. The question is often asked, 'If Christianity is rational and true, why is that most educated people don't believe it.' The answer is simple. They don't believe it for the very same reason most uneducated people don't believe it. They don't want to believe it. It's not a matter of brain power, for there are outstanding Christians in every field of the arts and sciences. It's primarily a matter of the will."

* Harry Emerson Fosdick once wrote that "a man can put off making up his mind, but he can't put off making up his life." That statement has all the realism of the Bible behind it.

Wecks points out, "Jesus has cited five witnesses as evidences of His identification with the Father. Because of this identification, Jesus was persecuted and hated by the world, therefore, the world stands guilty of rejection of Jesus Christ, which is actually hatred of God. The world's hatred of Christians is really hatred of Christ and hatred of Christ is hatred of the Father who sent Him. So the hatred believers experience in the world is really the attitude of the world toward God."

v. 23 He who is hating Me, is hating my Father also.

Since the Lord Jesus told Philip back in chapter 14 that "He who has seen Me has seen the Father," and that "He and the Father are one", then Christ can now say that the one who is hating Him is also hating the Father.

v. 24 If I did not do the works among them, which no other one did, they would not have sin. But now they have both seen and hated Me and my Father as well.

Whereas, back in verse 22, it was the words which He spoke that condemned them and gave them no excuse, now it is the works which He performed among them that no other one did that has convicted them.

They, therefore, now stand condemned on two counts:

1. the rejection of his words
2. the rejection of his works

The works which He did were an illustration and demonstration of the words which He spoke. Because we were dead in trespasses and sins, He came as the resurrection and life to give eternal life, because the god of this world had blinded our eyes; He came to give sight to those blind eyes, so that we could behold wondrous things out of His law. He came into our storm-tossed lives and whispered, 'Peace, be still.' And there was a great calm.

Morris West in his book Proteus depicts John Spada as Proteus, that is, the shepherd of those who live in an alien element. Near the end of the story, he is standing before the United Nations general assembly making a plea for all those who have been unjustly treated. "There are others, tens of thousands of others in prisons and detention camps and torture rooms and psychiatric institutions who are not free. Whose simplest human rights have been abrogated. It is for them that I have come to speak. I stand before you, one man alone. You are many. Behind you there is the serried might of nations, great and small,

their wealth, their armies, navies, air forces, their police, civil and secret. You have in short, a mandate of enormous potency. I, it would appear, have none. I claim that I have. It is a mandate from the silent to speak for them, from the imprisoned to plead for them, from the tortured to proclaim their wrong, from the dead to write at least a decent epitaph. When you look at me, I want you to see many other shapes and faces. The school girl, raped and bleeding on a table, a great scholar reduced by drugs to mumbling lunacy, a journalist, beaten to a bloody pulp, a long line of detainees inadequately fed, inadequately clothed working in sub-zero weather. You ask who gave me my mandate. They did. The hands that first offered it to me were the hands of my own daughter, tortured to extremity in Argentina, then my wife, my daughter and my daughter's husband were murdered. What more motive is needed for the action I have taken? Is your own patent of authority so sound? Should you not accept mine as I do yours? I will not insult you with any of the catch words of politics, the right, the left, the center, capitalists, communists, revolutionary, deviationist, dissident. You have heard them all, too many times in this place and elsewhere. These are labels hung on mannequins. I will use other words; man woman, child. And I will show you what was done to this man, that woman, their child. Look, listen, take heed, I beg you. These are your brothers and sisters. Their blood is your blood, crying not for vengeance, but for an end to this long iniquity. What are you, savages dancing around the fire, chanting while your victims burn? Medieval inquisitors wrenching irrelevances from dying men? If you are, then the terror which I hold over you is less than you deserve. If you are not, then in the name of whatever gods you worship, make an end of this monstrosity. Remember, time runs out."

Truth Forever on the scaffold ; Wrong Forever on the throne !!

v. 25 But in order that the word which in their law stands written might be fulfilled: 'They hated me without reason.'

Their hatred is the fulfillment of prophecy.

Psalm 35:19 "Do not let those who are wrongfully my enemies rejoice over me, neither let those who hate me without cause wink maliciously."

Psalm 69:1-4 "Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my soul. I have sunk in deep mire, and there is no foothold. I have come into deep waters and a flood overflows me. I am weary with my crying, my throat is parched. My eyes fail while I wait for my God. Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head. Those who would destroy me are powerful."

John 13:18 "I am not speaking concerning all of you. I am knowing the ones I selected; but in order that the Scripture may be fulfilled, he who is eating my bread, lifted up his heel against me."

And now this mournful cry at the end of our study, 'They hated me without reason.'

Christ has already pointed out back in verse 22 that they are not having any excuse for their sin and now here in this last verse of our study, we read, 'they hated me without reason.'

My God! My God! why have you forsaken me

Betrayal!
Denial
Departure
Cross!

Usually when people are stimulated to hatred, they have a list of reasons for such. One is reminded of the hatred of Joseph's brothers for him and there were some very obvious reasons:

1. He was in a place of administrative responsibility over his brothers.
2. He was much loved by his father
3. He had a special coat
4. He had dreams which put him in a place of supremacy over the rest of the family.

All of these things culminated in the act of selling him into the land of Egypt.

Christ, however, tells us that there was no valid reason for the hatred of the world against him.

CONCLUSION

What lessons can we learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1 This is the third time that Christ commands them to be loving one another.

Love is the force that helps you face the flak!

LESSON #2 The world's response to agape love is hatred.

LESSON #3 The world always loves that which conforms to it.

LESSON #4 The world has resisted His words and His works.

LESSON #5 The world is having no excuse for its sin.

LESSON #6 There are no reasons for their hatred of Jesus Christ.

The illustration of the bleeding heart.

High Cost of resistance ? Young Guy in his 30's dying of cancer
Thanks I needed that!!

Stubbi + Vicki