

“Gospel of John: Being Out of This World”

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Scripture

John 15:16-19

“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

"This I command you, that you love one another.

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

"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.”

Last Week

We continued in John 15 with Jesus continuing His dedicated teaching of the Disciples

Is Jesus your friend?

“What a Friend I have in Jesus”

We looked at the characteristics of a loving friend and how Jesus fit that description to a T

John 15:13 -> “Greater love has no man than this, that one would lay down His life for His friends.”

This Week

Jesus teaches about the Disciples’ relationship with the world

Jesus needs to set the expectation in their mind about their future ministry and potential treatment

He wants them to be prepared

First, He wants them to be assured about His choice:

They are the Chosen

John 15:16

“You **did not choose Me**, but **I chose you...**”

Jesus wants all doubt to be removed from the disciples as they head into ministry

They have ministry preordained and outlined in front of them

John 21:18-22 (Jesus talking about Peter's future death)

"Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, **you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you and bring you where you do not wish to go.**" Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, **He said to him, "Follow Me!"**

20Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" So, Peter seeing him, **said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?"** Jesus said to him, **'If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!'**"

He originally chose each of them for a purpose:

Luke 6:12-16

"It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. And when day came, **He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:** Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James and John; and Philip and Bartholomew; and Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot; Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor."

Paul was chosen:

Acts 9:13-16

"Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." But the Lord said to him, **'Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;** for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake.'"

Paul wrote that we have been chosen, too:

Ephesians 1:3-6

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.** In love, He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."

Second, not only were they chosen, but Jesus wanted them to know that they were appointed to bear fruit:

They have been Appointed to Bear Fruit

John 15:16

"...and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain..."

Appointed -> pre-planned -> “as many that have been appointed”

Acts 13:46-49 (on the First Missionary journey)

“Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, **“It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.”** For so the Lord has commanded us, **‘I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.’**”

48When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and **as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.** And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region.”

We talked about bearing fruit earlier in John 15

Good branches will bear fruit -> bad branches will not bear good fruit

What is bearing fruit?

Love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, gentleness, kindness, and self-control from **Galatians 5:22-23**

When the Spirit transforms your life, you begin to generate fruit

Jesus says “that your fruit would remain”

Remain -> the same Greek word as “abide” that we covered earlier in this chapter

Here is another proof that when the Spirit infuses your life, He will stay with you

The fruit will not end -> it will continue

In short, we do not control the Spirit’s movement -> it’s the opposite -> the Spirit controls US!

What great joy the disciples must have felt to hear that THEY were not responsible for their fruit

They just needed to be faithful to Jesus and they would have ministry success!

Third, they were given direct access to the Father

They have been Given Access to the Father

John 15:16

“...so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.”

Jesus continues with the teaching, encouraging the disciples that they have direct access to the Father

“in My name” -> When their will aligned with the Father’s plan, anything they asked would be done for them

If they needed support in their ministry, they had a direct pipeline to God

Too often, people think that God and Jesus are the genie, waiting around to answer whatever fancy you have

This is the point of the Lord's prayer: "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven"

We should seek to align our will with the Father's will -> seek the furtherance of the Father's desires

2 Peter 3:9 -> "not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."

What part did the disciples play in that? And what part do we play in that?

Matthew 5:16

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Fourth, they were to love one another

They are to Love One Another

John 15:17

"This I command you, that you love one another."

This is the 4th time that Jesus mentions this to the disciples

You think there's a reason for that?

How easy it is for us to forget the most important area of focus in our life when events of the world shake us

Jesus reminds the disciples that this is His "command"

It is not an optional activity but a commanded one:

John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, **even as I have loved you**, that you also love one another. **By this all men will know that you are My disciples**, if you have love for one another."

"even as I have loved you" -> in the same manner that I loved you, Jesus says

John 13:1 -> John said that Jesus loved the disciples "to the end" -> completely, holistically, unconditionally

John continued this teaching in all of his letters – so focused on love for the brethren

You can easily tell when a church is focused on love for one another

It permeates the culture: the care and prayer activities are focused first on the members of the church

Then, the care permeates outside the church to others

Why is it important to love one another?

Fifth, they will be hated by the world

They will be Hated By “the World”

John 15:18

“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.”

It is critically important to love one another because the world will not love the church

If the world hates you, Jesus says, expect it

Early in the New Testament, Jesus said it would happen:

Matthew 5:11-12

“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for **in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**”

Paul experienced it throughout his life and ministry:

2 Timothy 3:10-12

“Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! **Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.**”

Hate is the Greek word *miseo* which means “to detest”

Jesus experienced moments of adulation and many moments of persecution, sometimes in the same week

The world shouted “Hosanna” at Him at the beginning of the week and “Crucify Him” at the end of the week

No wonder Jesus warns the disciples not to entrust themselves to the world

But He also taught His disciples not to return the world’s hate:

Matthew 5:43-45

“You have heard that it was said, YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and **pray for those who persecute you**, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.”

So, what should be our relationship with the world?

This is a great question: we are not to leave the world and become a monk

Many individuals did that in the early church, parking themselves in monasteries, limiting contact with others

If that what Jesus called us to do?

How can you impact the world if you are not in it?

If all your friends and acquaintances are believers, who do you reach for Christ?

There is a delicate balance for believers and the world

Last, they are to live differently than the world

They are to be Out of the World

John 15:19

“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.”

Jesus tells the disciples they are not of the world but that they have been chosen OUT of the world

Jesus has imprinted His life into us through the Spirit, therefore the world will give us animosity, not love

Therefore, John taught his church:

1 John 2:15-17

“**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. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

We are to be holy -> set apart from the world -> distantly linked yet still involved

It is our mission field, whether we consider ourselves on mission or not

Jesus prayed to the Father for us about all of these areas of focus we covered today:

John 17:6-18

“I have manifested Your name to the men **whom You gave Me out of the world**; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. "Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me. **I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.**

11"**I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world**, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

13"But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. "I have given them Your word; and **the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.**

15"I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. "**As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.**"

So, are we to be in the world and out of this world at the same time?

Yes!

Our focus is to be involved but not consumed

Be in it but not of it

Work to rescue people from the world's traps

Encourage them to be holy

Communion Prayer

Benediction