

John 15:17-16:4

**This manuscript is a summary, for a full expression please download the audio file.**

Ill- Building a house, watching pottery or pictures come into existence.

For those like myself who have little talent with their hands, the watching of those who create something is an amazing thing, both a challenge and a blessing. The advent of youtube expands this possibility of seeing creation in action! My admiration for these people grows the more I see of their skill.

One would hope if we could watch the stars form and the worlds coalesce we would be equally in true Awe of the creator behind them.

In John's gospel as with others, the author seeks to show the enormity of the works of God. One lesson we can take from this gospel is that the actions Jesus has wrought in the people at this time are comparable as the creation of the stars and space, and equally as mind-blowing for those who have chosen to listen and see.

"Whether the people recognized it or not, Jesus' work was nothing less than God's work. In Jesus' speech God's words were heard (5:19ff.); in Jesus' works God's activity was seen (4:34); indeed, in Jesus God himself was seen (14:9). Jesus is the one who 'narrates' God on the plane of human existence (1:18). Thus to hate Jesus is to hate God (vv. 23, 24b; cf. 5:23b), just as to accept Jesus is to accept his Father (13:20). So tightly is Jesus bound up with his Father, both in his person (1:1, 18; 8:58; 20:28) and in his words and deeds (5:19-30), that every attitude directed toward him is no less directed toward God."- D. A. Carson

Key Points that Jesus shows the activity and work of God!

By overcoming time and nature-Turning water into wine

By healing those who were sick, freeing the possessed, raising the dead.

Restoring relationships with hope- Jesus was consistent about putting people back into the community, as a person of the community (the trinity) Jesus seeks for all humanity to emulate this deeply personal and intimate relationship that He shares with the Father and Spirit.

### Love Shows the way

The earlier part of this passage is Jesus encouraging his disciples to move towards greater love for one another. (Jn 17:9-17) His basis for this calling is that of dwelling within Jesus, the true vine. If we have this common denominator then we all have a set way of behaving which supersedes culture, Jesus sets in motion an Ecclesia, a church, which stretches beyond Jew and gentile.

### Gal 3:26ff

"For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. 28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you."

### The Spirit of Truth necessitates change!

If we expect the authority of Jesus regarding the Holy Spirit, we must expect the persecution that Jesus experienced.

### Jesus teaching is the two-edged sword.

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable." - Hebrews 4:12-13

what is best is not often what is popular?

In this passage we move from the concept of God's kindness to God's goodness, by putting on the "Spirit of Truth" we wear the garments of Jesus and avoid the fate of the person in the parable

Matthew 22:11-14 (NLT) "But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn't wearing the proper clothes for a wedding. 12 'Friend,' he asked, 'how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?' But the man had no reply. 13 Then the king said to his aides, 'Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."

We have "visible attire" in the form of the "Spirit of Truth" -The Holy Spirit.

Do we, because of the Holy Spirit believe in the absolute truth- Absolutely

True amongst others- Our lives need to be consistent with the outside world so that our visible and public profession matches that of the word of God

True with our community of faith!- If we treat non-believers well, this is to be commended, but the same love needs to show to those who profess Jesus as Lord and Saviour, this goes deeper than the world, as we have agreed to be able to challenge and be challenged by other believers

1 Cor 5:12-13 It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. 13 God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you."

True with oneself!- Finally, all starts at home, it can be for some, simple to appear one thing and think another, but this never fools God, we are called to be consistent with one another, but also to our self.

## Courage in the face of guaranteed adversity

"Christ's followers will be hated by the same world, partly because they are associated with the one who is supremely hated, and partly because, as they increase in the intimacy, love, obedience and fruitfulness depicted in the preceding verses, they will have the same effect on the world as their Master. They, too, will appear alien. The world loves its own: this is not a sociological remark about inborn suspicion of strangers, but a moral condemnation.

The quotation They hated me without reason has been drawn from Psalm 35:19 or Psalm 69:4. The latter is more likely, not only because Psalm 69 was widely regarded as messianic but also because it was frequently quarried by New Testament writers for appropriate quotations (cf. notes on 2:17). A Davidic typology is presupposed: If David could be hated for no reason, how much more the Messiah who would spring from his loins? Thus the hatred of the world against Jesus is not only unjustified (it is 'without reason'), but those who hate are condemned out of their own Bible (thus building toward mention of synagogue persecution, 16:2), even while they unwittingly fulfil their own Scriptures by the course they adopt."- D. A. Carson

"The world" from a Christian point of view involves all the people, plans, organizations, activities, philosophies, values, etc. that belong to society without God. Some of these things may be very cultural; others may be very corrupt; but all of them have their origins in the heart and mind of sinful man and promote what sinful man wants to enjoy and accomplish. As Christians, we must be careful not to love the world (1 John 2:15-17) or be conformed to the world (Rom. 12:1-2)."-Warren W. Wiersbe

## The Empire Strikes Back- Star Wars Rebellion

The Board game- Enough heroic acts to turn the tide against the Empire, so the side of light will win.

I play a board game; it represents the classic film, Star Wars, in it, the forces of the dark side need to find the rebels base and destroy it, if

they do so they win. As the board is finite and the "dark sides" units more powerful, given enough time they will win! The only hope the Rebels have it to raise the hope of those all around the galaxy, for the rebels to win, they need to awaken the people if they can do this before their base is found the light side win.

The 'light side' needs to spend time protecting their base in case of attack, but also to risk themselves in heroic acts deep in enemy territory, to win the hearts and minds of those who are willing to listen

We as believers are in a similar position.

Walking the tightrope of balance. -Offering hope to those who need it, while remaining in the love of those who presently believe.

"When we trusted Christ, we moved into a new spiritual position: we are now "in Christ" and "out of the world." To be sure, we are in the world physically, but not of the world spiritually. Now that we are "partakers of the heavenly calling" (Heb. 3:1) we are no longer interested in the treasures or pleasures of sin in this world. This does not mean that we are isolated from reality or insulated from the world's needs, so "heavenly minded that we are no earthly good." Rather, it means that we look at the things of earth from heaven's point of view.

The world system functions by conformity. As long as a person follows the fads and fashions and accepts the values of the world, he or she will "get along." But the Christian refuses to be "conformed to this world" (Rom. 12:2). The believer is a "new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17) and no longer wants to live the "old life" (1 Peter 4:1-4). We are the light of the world and the salt of the earth (Matt. 5:13-16), but a dark world does not want light and a decaying world does not want salt! In other words, the believer is not just "out of step"; he is out of place! (See John 17:14, 16, and 1 John 4:5.)"- Warren W. Wiersbe

Practical application.

In what ways am I demonstrating love to fellow believers, how have I encouraged with another local believer this week?

Have I opened my home to others, or accepted their offer of hospitality?

Have I listened to the burdens of others, or shared of my own?

Have I shared the Joy of Christ in my life and blessing God has bestowed?

How have I acted for those who need to be awakened by acts of courage?

Spoken up for the righteousness of Christ in a loving yet firm manner?

Demonstrated a "better way" for those around the world to see truth as it is revealed to me?