

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ
Last Words: It Is Expedient For You

Last time..."The world hates you."

This time..."It is expedient for you that I go away."

How can that be true, since it is true that the world hates us and will persecute us?!

We are in John 16

v1 I have spoken...you should not be offended:

These things...Ch 13-15, but in particular: The world hates you

With that foreknowledge, the disciples are to not be surprised, but rather to expect the hatred and persecution of the world

Jesus does not want His disciples/friends/Bride to be surprised.

With proper expectations of a life following Jesus, they will be able to persevere and advance in the face of hate, persecution, and fear (devil's *m.o.*)

Jesus' purpose for sharing this foreknowledge of God with His disciples is so that they would not be offended/stumble/fall/fail in faith/retreat

John 14:25, 29

Jesus tells His friends of the future so their faith in Him will be strengthened when the things He spoke of happen

For example...

v2-3 out of synagogues...God service...not known the Father nor Me:

Who is the "they"?

Synagogues are house of worship for the Jews, to whom the 11 will be sent

Let not your heart be troubled by:

- excommunication...religious, social, and economic death
- death/martyrdom ("witness")

But...nothing new here; the disciples have known of this reality

Matt 5:10-12

John 9:19-22

John 12:42-43

And it will happen, at the hands of zealous religious men

Acts 3-5	Peter and John threatened, jailed, beaten
Acts 7:54 – 8:4	Saul's religious zeal
Acts 9:1-2	Saul's zeal knows no bounds
Acts 14:19-22	that zeal is "corrected" and persecuted
James 1:1-4	written by the Jewish pastor of the church in Jerusalem during a time of intense persecution and suffering
Acts 20:22-24	Paul is bringing a gift, knowing bonds and afflictions await him (1 Cor 16:1-9)
Acts 21:27-31	religious men, "scattered abroad" Jews, see Paul and start a religious riot
Acts 22:21-23	the mention of "Gentiles" re-ignites the riot
Acts 26:9-11	Paul's testimony before King Agrippa

And this will happen for the reason Jesus foretells them it will

John 15:21, 24	
Rom 10:2	I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge
2 Tim 3:5, 7	Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth

Religion is anti-relationship

And zealous religious Jews are not the only religious men to hate and persecute the disciples of Jesus Christ

- Muslims persecute and kill "infidels"
- The ancient Babylonian religions have shed more righteous blood than any other (Rev 17:1-6, 18; Rev 18:23b-24).
RCC (esp Jesuits) are foremost of the "children of Babylon"

In these perilous times (2 Tim 3:1), zealous "politics" hate the disciples of Jesus

- Iowa professor ("Kill them all")
Antifa: religion of hate and anarchy
- Atheists, agnostics, and humanists (Fox News article)
Science, humanism, atheism, agnosticism: religions of man

v4 not unto you at the beginning because I was with you:

Jesus is telling his disciples these things now, at the end of His ministry,
after which He will not be with them

1. To strengthen their faith in Him when these things happen
(v1)

2. Because He was with them at the beginning of His ministry
Jesus protected, shielded His disciples from religious men

Matt 9:10-13

Matt 12:1-3 *ff*

Mark 9:14-16

v5-6 I go my way unto Him that sent Me:

This is the 32nd time (near as I can determine) Jesus has said He has been sent
“He” or “Him that”...20x (14x in John)
“Father”...12x (all in John)
28 of the 32 recorded in the Gospel of John, written to the Church
(His disciples)

If one is sent, isn't it only reasonable that he would return to whom sent him?

Why is this so important for the Church to know?

1. Jesus is the Son of God (purpose of this Gospel)
2. We are sent (Rom 10:14-15)
3. Isn't it also reasonable that we would also return to the One who sent us?
Individually...2 Cor 5:8
Family Plan...1 Thes 4:13-18

However, that part of God's Plan is yet revealed

Their perspective this day is...theirs, of their self-interests

Hence, why Jesus said John 14:1-3, 27

v7 It is expedient for you that I go away:

God's perspective is radically different than the disciples' perspective

His are not self-interests, His are mankind's best interests

He has a Plan of Redemption for fallen man, to reconcile man unto
Himself

The Father gave the Son a ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:17-21) and
sent Him in the form of man (Phil 2:5-8) to be His sin sacrifice for
the sins of the world (Is 53; John 3:16; John 1:29);
Jesus is our substitute (Gen 22)

However, coming in the form of man, Jesus subjected Himself to the limitations
of the flesh – confined in space and time

Thus, Jesus' ministry of reconciliation was confined to one place at one time as
long as He was in the world

Those limitations of the flesh would be greatly reduced...
and the ministry of reconciliation greatly expanded...
if

- Jesus leaves earth
- Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to every disciple...
who are in many places, at many times

John 14:12...Jesus' ministry of reconciliation will be continued by the Spirit of Truth abiding with and in His disciples (John 14:17, John 15:26-27)

Matt 9:36-38 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, *The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest*

Matt 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, *All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.* Amen

Therefore, it is to the disciples' advantage, for their profit/good,
that Jesus goes away; expedient although not convenient for the 11

Jesus enemies would agree with Him, however...although motives do not match
John 11:47-53

v8-11 he will reprove the world:

God the Holy Spirit (The Spirit of Truth) not only has a ministry in the Church/Body of Christ

- abide with forever
- to comfort/help
- to teach all things Jesus said
- to bring into remembrance all things Jesus said
- to testify of Jesus Christ

He also as a ministry in the world that involves the Church

- to reprove the world of sin
- to reprove the world of righteousness
- to reprove the world of judgment

reprove = "convict", the presentation of evidence in a court of law to bring a conviction

Mark Twain once said, “Most people are bothered by those passages in Scripture which they cannot understand; but as for me, I always noticed that the passages in Scripture which trouble me are those which I do understand.”

This describes conviction, the stirring inside that says,
“This applies to me; God is right and I am wrong.”

To convict, present convicting evidence, of sin...missing the mark (perfection)

Rom 3:10, 23

All men of all time have sin, offenses against the holy God worthy of condemnation and damnation

Therefore, the ultimate question: What are you going to do with your sin?

A. Nail it to the Cross of Jesus Christ?

Rom 6:3-11 reckon old man crucified with Christ, dead unto sin but alive unto God thru Jesus Christ our Lord

Is 53:6 Father laid our sin on His Son

1 Cor 5:21 He was made sin that we might be made the righteous of God in Him

B. Bear it yourself because you do not believe in Jesus Christ?

John 6:28-29 the work of God is to believe

Jesus Christ is God’s ONLY provision for sin

John 14:6

To convict, present convicting evidence, of righteousness

Matt 5:20, 48 greater righteousness, perfect

Rom 1:16-17 the righteousness of God is revealed by the Gospel

Rom 3:22-25 the righteousness of God is by the faith of Jesus Christ

Phil 3:9 ditto

1 Cor 1:30 Jesus is our righteousness

Jesus Christ is God’s Standard of righteousness (perfection), required to enter into His kingdom (eternal life after death)

Diseased Self-righteousness is vile, disgusting, loathsome to the holy God

Jesus Christ is God’s antidote to fallen and corrupt “Self”

To convict, present convicting evidence, of judgment

Heb 2:14-15 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage

1 John 4:4

Heb 9:27-28 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation

The Cross of Jesus Christ is God's sign to the world of His judgment for sin

Get on the Ark! World-wide judgment is coming!

God is going to judge the world in righteousness
(Acts 17:31, Ps 9:8, Ps 96:13, Ps 98:9)

Good News if you believe the testimony of the Spirit of Truth!

But Bad news if do not believe...eternal death is His righteous judgment

v12-15 many things to say...cannot bear them now...the Spirit of truth:

Jesus has many truths about what God is doing in the world to tell His disciples,
but they cannot bear/receive/endure/deal with those truths now

All are spiritual things (1 Cor 2:10-14)

Some are very deep

Some are very heavy

Later, He will tell them so their faith would not fail/waver (v1)

1 Peter 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ

in a letter written to churches in Galatia, warning them that persecution by the Roman Empire is coming

2 Peter 1:10 give diligence to make your calling and election sure

2 Peter 1:16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty

the last words of an eyewitness

Gospel of John written to the Church: Jesus Christ is the Son of God
(Ch 13-19 is one day in His ministry)

The revelation of God is progressive and by faith, not a forced “core dump”
Broader, wider, deeper over time

- to the world...Genesis thru Revelation
- in our personal walks with Jesus

Before Jesus can tell them these truths of God

- they must be born-again of the Spirit of God (John 20:21-22)
- they need the power of God to be His witnesses (Acts 2:1-4 ff)

When God the Holy Spirit comes, sent by the Father and the Son,
He will guide you/us in the truths of God

- Church
 - History
 - Acts – the beginning of the Church
 - Revelation – the end of all things that started in Genesis
 - Doctrine, the doctrine/teachings of Christ
 - Epistles
- personally
 - Daily Reading Schedule, year after year
 - Men’s Study (James)
 - Women’s Study (Acts)
 - Prayer and Study (Revelation)
 - Marriage Enrichment (Proverbs)
 - Family Fellowship Night (tbd)

Therefore, v7

When God the Holy Spirit comes, He will

- not speak of Himself, He will testify/witness of Jesus Christ
(John 15:26, Gen 24...unnamed servant gathering a bride for the father’s son)
- speak what He hears
(ala Deut 18:18-19, John 7:16)
will not teach a different doctrine (Gal 1:6-9, 2 Tim 3:16-17)
- shew you things to come
(God telling His friends what He is doing in the world,
His Plan of Redemption and the end of all things)
- glorify Jesus Christ, Kok and Lol, the Lord of all;
receiving/taking (same Gr word) the glory of the Son
(John 17:1-5) and revealing it to His disciples
 - all glory and honor and power
(Rev 4:11, Rev 5:12-13, Rev 19:1)
 - the world (Ps 24:1) and all souls (Ezk 18:4b)

Application

1. How do we know these things?

How can anyone know the eternal truths of the Creator God?

By the revelation of God...the Bible

People very close to me struggle mightily with life on earth...because they do not know

- The Father
- Jesus Christ
- The Word of God

They are spiritually dead, not spiritually discerned

You have people very close to you in the same situation

The Body of Christ, with the Spirit of Truth, is sent to them to tell them...cultivating a relationship so that we can share God's heart to have a relationship with them

2. Religion is anti-relationship

Religion is a part of the world that hates and persecutes the disciples of Jesus Christ

Relationship: Father, Son, AND Holy Spirit

(Spirit of Truth spoken of 3x by Jesus in Ch14-16)

What part of God do you not want?

Cultivate a sense of hearing the small still voice of God, the Holy Spirit

- teaching
- reminding
- testifying/witnessing
- guiding
- glorifying
- conforming
- transforming by renewing

He came (with, in, and upon) for our advantage, in our best interests

Invest time and effort into your relationship with Him