

Darkness before Dawn

John 15.18-16.33

SOLEMN Evening – Jesus & 11 Faithful, FRUITFUL Apostles

HE is going to CROSS in FEW Hours > But HE COMFORTS them!

Evening BEGAN with HIM Washing their FEET > Soon Wash with BLOOD!

Love one another as I LOVE You – In my Father’s house are many rooms,

I GO to PREPARE a Place for You! – Abide in ME, and BEAR much FRUIT!

I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

NOTHING is BETTER than That – NO PROMISES are MORE WONDERFUL!

REASON – 100’s of MILLIONS – All over World – JUMPED In & FOLLOW!

In Warm, Glow of Secure Room > Jesus SLAPS in Face with Shocking Words

15.17 you will love one another >> 15.18 the world hates you

16:1 “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.”

1. Opposition is Inevitable

a. You Changed!

15.19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

“not of the world” – WORLD does NOT Mean Globe, Planet, Nation-States

Uses word WORLD 6 X’s in just first 2 Verses of our Text > World SYSTEM

John: WORLD – Place of OPPOSITION Against GOD, His People, His Purpose

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

John 1.10

“all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world” 1 John 2.16

JONAS HANWAY Invented UMBRELLA – Walked down Street in England
 HELD Up Umbrella – Protected from Rain – PELTED with Stones & Dirt
 WHO are YOU to Stay DRY > ALL of US are getting SOAKED in RAIN!

Former rebels who have by the grace of the king been won back to loving
 allegiance to their rightful monarch are not likely to prove popular with those
 who persist in rebellion. D.A. Carson

NOT ABOUT US! – HE is the SAVIOR, HE Alone is WORTHY!

BELIEVERS are NO BETTER than Unbelievers/ NO MORE Righteous

we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body
 and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind
Ephesians 2.3

b. You Confront!

NO I Don't! I SMILE, LOVE, TELL TRUTH, ALWAYS Try & HELP Others!!

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the
 darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who
 does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works
 should be exposed. John 3.19,20

JESUS is THE Light > But WE are REFLECTING Him in this DARK World

ARISTIDES leading CITIZEN of Golden Ancient ATHENS > Very GOOD Man
 Such OUTSTANDING Citizen, VIRTUOUS Man – Called Aristides THE JUST
 Citizens of Athens took VOTE to BANISH – Aristides the Just from their CITY
 WHY? “Because we are TIRED about hearing of this GOOD and JUST man”!!

“He hath a daily beauty in his life that makes me ugly” Iago says of Cassio, Shakespeare

c. Your Christ vs. 18,20,21,23,25

15.18,20 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you... Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you...But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me

Hatred does not exist because of what Christians are in themselves; they are nothing. It does not exist because of what they have done; they are harmless (or at least they should be). Hatred exists because the world hates Jesus... James Boice

Most BASIC Description of Christian > We are “IN CHRIST” United to Him

1) His Word

15.20,22,23 If they kept my word, they will also keep yours...If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.

RIGHT to HATE Some People’s Words: LIES, ARROGANT, Selfish, MEAN
JESUS Words > TRUE, HUMBLE, KIND, CARING > TOO GOOD for World

Many years Ago Early Missionaries went to Africa > Took some GADGETS
Small MIRROR – M hung from Tree while SHAVING Out in M COMPOUND
Wife of CHIEF Came by > Saw SHINING Thing on Tree and Looked Closer
Saw OLD, UGLY Face – Hardened Features, SCARRED by Tribal Cuttings
“Who is that HORRIBLE Person Looking OUT from INSIDE this TREE?”
M – It is YOU – It is MIRROR – REFLECTS how WE Look
Back Few Days Later with Husband / Chief – Forced M to Sell Precious Mirror
SMASHED into Pieces: “That thing will never make faces at me again!”

2) His Works – Important word in John – 27 X’s

15.24 If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin

17 X’s in John > SIGN // “Miracle” in Synoptics > PROOF of Divine TRUTH

WORLD has Great Works – Man on Moon, Submarines under Sea, iPhone!!

GOD made MOON – UNIVERSE / SEAS all in Them / IDEAS, WORDS!

Best of World’s Works like SHABBY & SMALL compared to God’s Works

3) His Father - Jesus SPOKE and SERVED / Words & Works of FATHER

15.23,24 Whoever hates me hates my Father also... but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father

16.3 And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me.

MANY think they can be GENERICALLY RELIGIOUS – Follow Vague God

Certainly NOT an Atheist – LOVE God, FEAR God > Just NOT INTO JESUS!

No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

1 John 2.23

16.15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

16.28 I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

2. Opposition will be Terrible

Two Amazing Statistics about LAST 150 Years

Last 150 years: More Decided to Follow X than Previous 1800 years of History

Last 150 years: More DIED for X than Previous 1800 years of History Combined

40-50 yrs BETWEEN this NIGHT and JOHN WRITING this FINAL Gospel

During the succeeding years of the Roman empire, men, women, and even children would at different times be hounded, abused, beaten, tortured in the most appalling ways and slaughtered by the thousands, at times with a refinement of cruelty which numbs the mind. Bruce Milne

a. Cloaked in Dignity 16. 2 They will put you out of the synagogues.

Sounds like VERY CIVILIZED, RESPECTABLE Decision of Logical People
HATRED of Jesus – Presidential Speeches – Court Decisions – Voter Choices
Televised on High-tech Systems – Reported by Beautiful, Intelligent Reporters

Christians have faced severe persecution performed in the name of Yahweh, in the name of Allah, in the name of Marx – and in the name of Jesus. D.A. Carson

Dare Go Against Respectable, High-Financed, Popular, Godless World System?

YOU are Narrow-Minded, BIGOTED, Opinionated, Inflexible, Unloving!

b. Completely Disconnected 16.2 They will put you out of the synagogues.

// Kicked OUT of CHURCH > So What, No Big Deal

MANY Places Today – Church of Another Denom. Right Across STREET
Always HAPPY to get NEW MEMBERS - Ex. Kicked Out > NEXT PASTOR!

Excommunication from Synagogue – MORE SERIOUS – Saw in Ch 9,10

NO Worship – Sacrifice for Sin – Fellowship – Not Hear the Word of God

Devastating SOCIALLY & ECONOMICALLY – Shunned by Former Friends

Reputation – Academic Future – Opportunity for Advancement – Social Status

Persecution from WORLD is Hurtful, but NOT Surprising for Religious

ATTACK from Religious MOST Hurtful – They're Right, Keepers of Truth

If they say you are WRONG, BAD – You are a HOPELESS, LOST, HERETIC!

Think of Martin LUTHER – Brave, Fearless, Confident – Stood ALL ALONE
 All in CHURCH and SOCIETY were STANDING AGAINST Him & Views
 Taken before Council and ORDERED to DENY his Protesting Ideas

Am I to stand up alone and preach against your people, your kingdom, your priests, and your Word? For that, of course, is where your name is; they have your Law, your temple, and both the spiritual and worldly government, ordained by yourself. Who am I to oppose singlehandedly all that is God's? Martin Luther

c. Destroyed for Christ

16.2,3 Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me.

Thru Gospels – UNITED Opinion of RELIGIOUS Leaders, Synagogue Keepers
 Jesus' IDEAS & ACTIONS, Even an INTEREST in Jesus is BAD for WORLD
 PUT Jesus OUT Hometown Synagogue in Nazareth > Tried to Throw over Cliff
 ACTS – Crazy Followers CLAIM He is ALIVE > KILL them TOO!

...they set them (Peter and John) before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us."... they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

Acts 5.27,28,40,41

TREATMENT of Jesus is STANDARD for His FOLLOWERS

Jesus does not hide His scars when he tries to win disciples.

So much popular Western evangelical religiosity is so shallow and selfish. It promises so much and demands so little. It offers success, personal happiness, peace of mind, material prosperity; but it hardly speaks of repentance, sacrifice, self-denial, holy lifestyle and willingness to die for Christ. Peter Kusmic, Yugoslavia

3. Opposition will be Understandable

SHIA' Muslim NOT Understand why SUNNI Muslims KILL My Child??

Afghan NOT Understand why American Drone Missile BLOW Up my Home??

Buddhist Shopkeeper NOT Understand why BOYCOTTED by Hindu Customers

Born in POVERTY – No Clean Water, Shelter, Education, Health Care, Future??

Lots of People – Lots of Suffering – NO REASON NOW, NEVER WILL BE!!

Whatever YOU Suffer for/with Jesus WILL BE Understood – Now or Later

a. Carry out Salvation – Jesus GOING means great things COMING

16.4-7 “I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

Sometimes TEARS shed by KIDS & PARENTS when Kids Move from Home
 NOT Always – Sometimes Parents say, “Don’t let door hit you on your way out”
 KIDS – Like Prodigal Son – Can’t wait till you’re Dead, Give my Money NOW!
 Moving OUT means New Adventures, Jobs, Families – \$ for Adult Diapers

Jesus says you did NOT ask Where? They DID when answer was about THEM?

LORD! Where are you going! How can you LEAVE US here all ALONE!

Jesus: ASK see What MEANS to Him – What is God’s Plan for Them, Future?

Only when Jesus finished what the Father had sent him to do could the Spirit take that finished work and apply the joy of its achievement to the world. Mark Johnston

b. Conviction of Sin – God sees ALL and will ONE DAY JUDGE All

WORK of Holy Spirit is to TELL THE WORLD the TRUTH about Itself

16. 8-11 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Greek of these 4 verses so TIGHTLY PACKED Difficult to UNRAVEL ALL
World convicted about SIN – By REJECTING Jesus it REMAINS IN SIN
World convicted about RIGHTEOUSNESS – Not on side of All-Righteous God
about Judgment – Rejecting Jesus it stands with Devil who is Condemned

c. Commission to Write Scripture – Great News Accurately Recorded

16.4 But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

The Bible is the Spirit's greatest gift to the church. Melvin Tinker

16.12,13 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

NOT All Truth about ALL SUBJECTS > Some Pastors think they're
Authoritative Encyclopedia's of KNOWLEDGE about EVERYTHING!

EXPERTISE of the APOSTLES – TRUTH of Christ and His SALVATION
APOSTLES write NT – Glorious CROWN atop SACRED SCRIPTURE of Israel

The Holy Spirit's guidance stretches from the very first things that happened after Jesus' departure to include everything that will happen to the end of time. It is primarily concerned with God's programme for his church and only secondarily with God's plan for each individual disciple. Individual disciples are not guided independently of the church, but within the context of the church.

Samuel Ngewa

d. Christ in the Spotlight - HOLY SPIRIT PRIMARY EVANGELIST

15.26,27 “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

Want to KNOW God – NEED to Meet Jesus – Want to Meet Jesus > Read Bible
N.T. Started RIGHT HERE in Room that Night – Author’s Commissioned
PRIMARY SUBJECT of Book telling them about PRIMARY AUTHOR

16.14,15 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

The ministry of the Spirit is not a vague impartation of spiritual energy, but the specific ministry of proclaiming, and applying to the disciple community, the triumphant procession of Jesus through death and resurrection to the right hand of the Father...the unleashing of the powers of the promised kingdom of God in the world.
Bruce Milne

Holy Spirit worked LONG Ago to get WORDS of TRUTH Right

NOW Holy Spirit Working to get YOU RIGHT According to TRUTH of Word

The Holy Spirit points to two unshakeable facts, a bloody cross and a slightly used tomb, both empty.
Yours Truly

4. Opposition will be Endurable

a. Little Weeping, Lots of Rejoicing

16.16-22 “A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and

you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

GREAT PAIN on NEAR Horizon > LITTLE While going to CROSS

3 Days Later – LITTLE While > RISE from Death in VICTORIOUS JOY

BIRTH PANGS of Suffering will PRODUCE New Creation of God in Christ

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. Psalm 30.5

b. Trusting Jesus, True Joy > Jesus invites the to Pray

16.23-27 In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

1) Nature of Prayer > ASK 5 X's – Have Not when we Ask Not

Jesus > You will not SEE Me but you are Always WITH THE FATHER – Ask!

Not Expect them to WORK OUT Things on OWN > Seek God in All Things

2) Privilege of Prayer – Ask Him without FEAR or HESITATION

They ASKED Jesus Freely, NOW they Call Upon their Father in Heaven

Father will not give CHILD He LOVES a STONE or a SERPENT

3) Condition of Effective Prayer – SIMPLE Come in Jesus Name

Jesus is RIGHT Password / He is ONLY PIN NUMBER > Or you'll Bounce

We have the heart of God as soon as we place before him the name of his Son.
John Calvin

4) Promise – New Understanding / Spirit opens Word

That NIGHT Fog of Confusion was LIFTING / No More Figures of Speech
GOSPELS give Honest Picture of SLOWNESS of DISCIPLES

We are ALL at Least 1 Sandwich Short of Picnic / Elevator Not Stop Every Floor

Spirit who INSPIRES Word / Graciously ILLUMINES it to our Hearts, Minds

c. Worship Christ, Conquer the World

16.28-33 I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.” His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Disciples CONFESSION - Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.

GREAT STEP Gaining UNDERSTANDING and SPIRITUAL INSIGHT

But NOT FINAL STEP OVERLY CONFIDENT – Jesus Knows All, Not Them!

“Do you now believe?” SARCASM – Good First Step, More Trouble Ahead

They will SCATTER – He will SUFFER, ALONE on the CROSS

World offers Empty Promises / Jesus gives PEACE / OVERCOMES World

And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2.17

NEUTRALITY is NOT OPTION > Follow HATED One or HATE HIM

TRIBULATION of Dying World / TAKE Heart OVERCAME World

Lived in Chicago in 1870's know name Horatio G. Spafford

RICH, SUCCESSFUL Lawyer > Beautiful wife ANNA, 5 Children

Believers in Jesus thru preaching Evangelist Dwight Moody

1870 – Only son died from Scarlet Fever at the Age of 4

1871 – Great Chicago Fire – Extensive Real Estate Holdings Burned

1873 – Family Planned to Rest by Sailing to England

Last Minute Horatio NOT GET AWAY – Sent Anna & 4 Daughters

November 2, 1873 – Ship collided in Atlantic Ocean – 12 Minutes SUNK

Anna & 4 Daughters on their Knees in Prayer

After 10 Anxious days Horatio finally got Telegram from Anna in Cardiff

2 Words – “Saved Alone” – 4 Daughters gone into the Presence of God

Spafford boarded ship in NY to Meet Anna in England

When passed Fateful Spot in Atlantic Ocean – Wrote this Hymn

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,

When sorrows like sea billows roll;

Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,

It is well, it is well, with my soul.

It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Jesus: “In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

John 16.33

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’ ²⁶ “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. ^{16:1} “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. “I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁶ “A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” ¹⁷ So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸ So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a

little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." ¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹ When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²² So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. ²³ In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. ²⁵ "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸ I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father." ²⁹ His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰ Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." ³¹ Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³² Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

1. What a shock to see matchless love met with murderous hatred! Why was Jesus so hated?
2. Consider the strange mix described in Scripture – joy amidst suffering. (verses 11 and 18, James 1.2-4, 1 Peter 1.3-7).
3. What help from the Holy Spirit is promised to these Apostles? To all believers? How are these promises linked to both groups?
4. What exactly is meant by the promise of "all truth" (verses 26,27). What does this mean in our world that does not believe in absolute truth?
5. This passage makes following Jesus sound very hard. Are you willing? Are you ready?