



SACRED

COMMON GROUND J. SERIES : SACRED HEART

APPROACH.

Do you feel it?

Tension? Pushback? Rejection?

When you are online? When you are in the classroom? When you are at a friend's house?

Are you labeled? Left out of the conversation? Uninvited to the party?

Because you don't follow the same media? The same music? The same ideas? The same speech or behaviors or activities?

Because you do follow Jesus?

It is not a matter of *if*, but *when*. Jesus says clearly to His disciples—to you and me—that following Him means tension. Rejection. Hatred. Persecution. He warns that we (the students) should expect to receive exactly what was done to Him (The Teacher). He says that the time will come, when we are put out—killed even—for the sake of His name.

So what do we do with this? How do we cope? How do we answer—or stand? What do we do when this persecution comes? Let's press in and learn together!

I LOVE your HEART!

Bryan

CONTEXT.

Literature: John is a gospel.

Author: John, the apostle, son of Zebedee, brother to James. Called a “son of thunder.”

Audience: New Christians and searching non-Christians.

Date: c. A.D. 85-90

Setting: Written after the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and before John’s exile to Patmos.

Key Themes: Jesus Christ, Son of God; eternal life; belief; The Holy Spirit; the resurrection.

Key Verse: **John 20.30-31**

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Endnote ¹

REDEMPTIVE HISTORY.

The gospels give the account for Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. They inform us as to what Jesus said and did and how people responded to Him.



TEXT: JOHN 15

I Am the True Vine

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants,[a] for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

The Hatred of the World

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,[b] 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.

THE BIG IDEA:

Following Jesus means not following the world. Not following the world means we will experience tension, resistance, even hatred and persecution.

You still in?

IF THE WORLD HATES YOU.

If you were of the world.

- There is a tension between the two systems:
 - We will be accepted by one and rejected by the other.
 - We have to decide to which we belong.

John 15.18-19

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.

- Persecution is not a matter of if but when.

Matthew 10.16+

16 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles.

John 16.1-4

16 “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.

John 9.22 (sim. 12.42)

22 (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)

Acts 8.1

1 And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

If they persecuted me.

- If Jesus was persecuted, then we (who follow Jesus) should expect the same.

John 15.20

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.

Matthew 10.24+

24 “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

HEAD. HEART. HANDS.

As disciples, FOLLOWING JESUS—means NOT FOLLOWING after the world. This is no easy task. It requires constant prayer and reading of God’s Word so that we may (1) discern the right path (right choices) to take and (2) have the wisdom and strength to respond when persecution comes.

Where are you feeling the tension? Where do you feel the pull of the world most in your life? Pray for this area and trust God to give you all that you need to stand for Him!



ON ACCOUNT OF MY NAME.

Whoever hates me.

- Jesus states clearly His identity and mission: He has come to reveal God as the Son of God.

John 15.21+

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.

- Rejecting Christ, is rejecting God.

John 15.24+

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.'

Acts 3.14

14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

HEAD. **HEART**. HANDS.

As disciples, BEING TRANSFORMED BY JESUS means that Christ is doing the work necessary for us to follow after Him. If He has called us and is transforming us, we can be confident that He will provide all that we need to walk with Him. As Paul wrote to Philippi, if Christ has begun this good work in you, He will bring it to completion.



BUT WHEN THE HELPER COMES.

He will bear witness about me.

- Jesus provides The Holy Spirit who enables us to witness for Him.
 - Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Helper as well as the Spirit of Truth.

John 15.26+

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.

Matthew 10.19+

19 When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. 20 For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

- The Holy Spirit speaks through us. He gives us boldness to witness for Him.

Acts 4.23+

23 When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24 And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, 25 who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

“Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed”—

27 for truly in this city there were gathered together

against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. 29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

HEAD. HEART. **HANDS.**

As disciples, BEING ON MISSION WITH JESUS means witnessing—sharing Him—with others.

INVENTORY: So how is your witness? Shoulder shrug? How about we start here: How many people (your friends) notice a difference in you (in contrast to everyone else)? How many know that you are a Christian? How many know that you go to church? That you went to a thing called "DNOW" this past weekend? Okay, how many have you invited to come to church with you? How many have you prayed with? How many have you shared Christ with?

When we think about our witness, we think about the relationships that God (already) has given us. Start there, with those you see every day, week by week! Ask God to give you courage, boldness and His words to witness. Ask Him to help you see and seize opportunities to share Him with others. Trust Him to do what He has promised to do!

WE ARE HERE! Need help sorting it out? Grab a GBYouth leader! We are always available to talk, pray or just listen. Whatever you need, we are here!



ENDNOTES:

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations provided by:

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