# The Gospel of John

Chapter 15, Verses 22-27

With a Substantial Review of Verses 18-21

#### General Introduction

- one of the four gospels, each of which is a biography of Jesus and an historical narrative of his life
- one of the *five Johannine books*, all of which are among the last books in the Bible to have been written
- written in Greek, primarily to those who already believed in Christ, including both Jews and Gentiles

- Basic Structure
  - Prolog First 18 verses of Chapter 1
  - Jesus Public Ministry Until the end of Chapter 12
  - Private Time With His Disciples Chapters 13-17
  - Trial, Death, and Resurrection Chapters 18, 19, 20
  - Epilog (resurrection appearances in Galilee) Chapter 21

- Flow of the Narrative:
  - Prolog: <u>the Word became flesh</u> (1:1-18)
  - Introduced to Israel by John the Baptist, Jesus performed great signs. His ministry soon surpassed John's. (1:19-3:36)
  - Retreating to Galilee, Jesus passed through Samaria where he was recognized as the Savior of the World. (Chapter 4).
  - In Galilee crowds followed Jesus, but for the wrong reasons, and they finally could not accept his teaching. All but the 12 disciples turned away from him (Chapter 6).

- Flow of the Narrative:
  - In Judea the Jews persecuted and hated Jesus, and sought to throw stones at him, because he healed on the Sabbath and called God his father. (Chapters 5, 7, 8, and 9)
  - Jesus described himself as the "door of the sheep" and "the good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep." He said that the Pharisees did not believe him because they were not his sheep. Once again they picked up stones to throw at him. So Jesus crossed the Jordan to where John had been baptizing at first and many believe in him there. (Chapter 10)

#### Flow of the Narrative:

Jesus returned to Judea, raised Lazarus from the dead, and many believed. Over the objection of Judas, Mary anointed Jesus with expensive ointment before he entered Jerusalem on a donkey. Later his disciples would recognize that these things had been in fulfillment of prophesy. God spoke from heaven, yet the Jews questioned how Jesus could be at once the Messiah and the Son of Man who would be lifted up. He urged them to believe in him while they still had the chance. At this point, Jesus public ministry ended. (Chapters 11 & 12)

#### Seven Signs in John's Gospel:

- 1. Changing water into wine (2:1-11)
- 2. Healing the Capernaum official's son (4:46-54)
- 3. Healing the paralytic at Bethesda (5:1-18)
- 4. Feeding the 5000 (6:5-14)
- 5. Walking on water (6:16-24)
- 6. Healing the man blind from birth (9:1-7)
- 7. Raising Lazarus from the dead (11:1-45)

#### Flow of the Narrative:

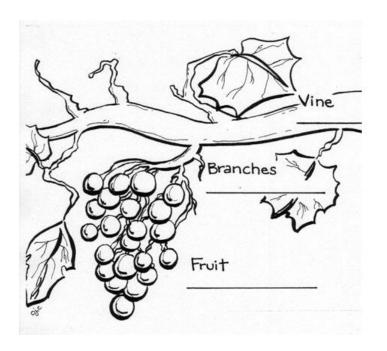
Meeting privately with them over supper, Jesus surprised his disciples by washing their feet, thus teaching them an important lesson that they would understand later. He told them that one of them would betray him and that he was going someplace where they could not follow. He urged them to love one another. Peter said he would follow Jesus anywhere, even if it cost him his life, but Jesus foretold that Peter would deny him three times. (Chapter 13)

- Flow of the Narrative:
  - Seeking to comfort his disciples, Jesus said that:
    - <u>he was going to the Father</u> to prepare a place for them, he was the way to the Father, and having seen him, they had seen the Father. (14:1-10)
    - after he returned to the Father, <u>the Holy Spirit would come</u> to live in his disciples, causing them to remember, understand, and keep his words, so that whatever they asked in his name would be accomplished. (14:11-28)
    - <u>his death would be a demonstration to the world of his love for</u> <u>the Father</u>, and certainly not a victory for Satan. (14:29-31)

#### Seven "I am" Statements in John's Gospel:

- 1. The bread of life (6:35)
- 2. The light of the world (8:12)
- 3. The gate of the sheep (10:9)
- 4. The good shepherd (10:11)
- 5. The resurrection and the life (11:25-26)
- 6. The way, the truth, and the life (14:6)
- 7. The true vine (15:1)

• The Vine and the Branches: John 15:1-11



Jesus

Disciples

Christ-like character / works (answered prayer)

## Review (Last Week's Lesson)

- Jesus love for his disciples will be shown supremely in his death for them on the cross (15:13)
- They will show their love for him by obeying his commandments (15:14)
- His commandment is that they love one another as he has loved them (15:12)
  - Compare 13:35 --- it is their love for one another that will demonstrate that they are his disciples.

## Review (Last Week's Lesson)

- This living relationship between and among Christ and his disciples, is not a "master-servant" relationship, but a kind of friendship, because Jesus shares with his disciples what the Father has made known to him. (15:15)
- This is the apostolate (and this is the Church). It consists not of those who have chosen Jesus, but of those whom Jesus has chosen, and Jesus has chosen them to believe and bear much fruit, to love one another, to have a right relationship with God the Father. (15:16-17)

- Although we read these last week, we shall now reread Verses 18-21, having to do with the world's hatred for Jesus and his disciples
- Last week we had long discussion around the question, "which aspects of Christian behavior are most disliked by the world."
- Before we move on, I want to make sure we take away the right teaching from that discussion and from this passage of scripture.

**15:18**もしこの世があなたがたを憎むならば、あなたがたよりも先にわたしを憎んだことを、知っておくがよい。

15:19もしあなたがたがこの世から出たものであったなら、この世は、あなたがたを自分のものとして愛したであろう。しかし、あなたがたはこの世のものではない。かえって、わたしがあなたがたをこの世から選び出したのである。だから、この世はあなたがたを憎むのである。

15:20わたしがあなたがたに『僕はその主人にまさるものではない』と言ったことを、おぼえていなさい。もし人々がわたしを迫害したなら、あなたがたをも迫害するであろう。また、もし彼らがわたしの言葉を守っていたなら、あなたがたの言葉をも守るであろう。

**15:21**彼らはわたしの名のゆえに、あなたがたに対してすべてそれらのことをするであろう。それは、わたしをつかわされたかたを彼らが知らないからである。

- <sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.
- <sup>19</sup> 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.
- <sup>20</sup> 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.

<sup>21</sup> But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

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 By "the world" John means everything except the true church --- where love of God and love of the brethren prevail.

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

• There is an idiom which comes from Hebrew into the Bible at many places which uses the word "hate" as a synonym for "likes less well" but here we are probably supposed to understand "hate" in its literal English sense.

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- This becomes clear when see Jesus, the primary object of the world's, hatred nailed to the cross.
- Christ on the cross is a picture of the kind of hatred that Jesus is preparing his disciples to share with him.

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- Such hatred is total, irrational, baseless, perverse, petty
- Jesus was completely good and sought only to save.
- Yet the world's reaction to Jesus was ferocious, diabolical

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 There are various reasons why you or I might be hated, but here Jesus is describing the kind of hatred directed at a person *because* he or she is a true follower of Christ.

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If we are not true followers of Christ, then the world will,
of course, not hate us for <u>that</u> reason and in that perverse
way seen on the cross.

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- It just means that the world loves worldly things.

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• The point here is that a person's friendship with Christ, to the extent that it is genuine and perceived as such by the world, will be <u>strangely</u> opposed by the world.

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- Upon reflection, I think this question may tend to confuse the issue Jesus is talking about here in John 15.
- Jesus does not say that Christians will be hated for this or that aspects of their character or behavior.
- He simply says that they will be hated by the world because they belong to Him!

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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.

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• I think it is fair to say that Jesus was not persecuted because of this or that aspect of his character or his behavior. He was persecuted **because of who he was**.

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 If we proclaim who Jesus was, and is, then the same world that persecuted Jesus will persecute us.

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• Our proclamation may be seen in this or that aspect of our character or behavior (e.g. how we love other Christians) but *mostly it will be made by our words*.

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• This passage has been read in at least two ways. The best (I think) is to read this to mean that the world, as such, will react to our proclamation of Christ just as it reacted to his proclamation of himself, i.e. badly.

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Or we could read this to mean that, from out of the world,
 Christ has chosen some in each generation who will keep his word.

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- Either reading is consistent with the whole Bible.
- The key point here is that the world's hatred is directed against Christ, in us, and not against us apart from Christ.

- Men and women with excellent character and behavior but who are not followers of Christ will not become the object of the kind of hatred that Christ is discussing here.
- Christ is discussing the hatred of the world for him personally, which is directed at those who follow him.

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• Christ is here discussing the persecution and hatred that will come to his disciples <u>because</u> they effectively proclaim the gospel of <u>Jesus Christ</u>, and not because of this or that aspect of their personal character or behavior.

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 Jesus <u>expects</u> Christians to be persecuted by the world because of his name.

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But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, <u>because</u> they do not know him who sent me.

- Jesus <u>expects</u> Christians to be persecuted by the world because of his name.
- He expects this because he knows the world (even Israel) is separated from God.

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- In modern societies such as Japan, which protect "freedom of religion," are we persecuted? How?
- I think the reason why most of us are not persecuted because of the name of Christ, is that we do not proclaim his name in a way that threatens the world and its ruler.
- Instead we focus on trying to live our godly life quietly,
   while offending the world as little as possible.

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- Far from it. In Romans 12:18, the Apostle Paul says, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."
- So then, I think we should try to be at peace with all, while living in obedience with the commandments of Christ, and rejoice whenever <u>on account of Christ</u> the world hates us.

• Whenever <u>on account of Christ</u> the world hates us, it hates us for no good reason!

- Whenever <u>on account of Christ</u> the world hates us, it hates us for no good reason!
- The world hated Christ without a cause!

# John 15:22-25

15:22もしわたしがきて彼らに語らなかったならば、彼らは罪を犯さないですんだであろう。しかし今となっては、彼らには、その罪について言いのがれる道がない。

15:23わたしを憎む者は、わたしの父をも憎む。

15:24もし、ほかのだれもがしなかったようなわざを、 わたしが彼らの間でしなかったならば、彼らは罪を 犯さないですんだであろう。しかし事実、彼らはわ たしとわたしの父とを見て、憎んだのである。

# John 15:22-25

**15:25**それは、『彼らは理由なしにわたしを憎んだ』と書いてある彼らの律法の言葉が成就するためである。

# John 15:22-25

<sup>22</sup> 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.

- <sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father also.
- <sup>24</sup> 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.
- <sup>25</sup> But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

もしわたしがきて彼らに語らなかったならば、彼らは罪を犯さないですんだであろう。しかし今となっては、彼らには、その罪について言いのがれる道がない。

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If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of <u>sin</u>, but now they have no excuse for their <u>sin</u>.

 Jesus is not speaking here of all kinds of sins, of which he along among all men, is completely free.

もしわたしがきて彼らに語らなかったならば、彼らは罪を犯さないですんだであろう。しかし今となっては、彼らには、その罪について言いのがれる道がない。

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- He is, rather, speaking of the particular sin of unbelief.
- He just said (Verse 21) that the world does not know God.
- This indeed is the definition of the world.

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 As we have seen, to love Christ is to love God is to be separated from the word, and to become the object for the world's hatred. わたしを憎む者は、わたしの父をも憎む。

Whoever hates me hates my Father also.

 Conversely, to hate Christ, is to hate the Father, which is to remain in the world and, therefore, to hate all who belong to God.

もし、ほかのだれもがしなかったようなわざを、わたしが彼らの間でしなかったならば、彼らは罪を犯さないですんだであろう。 しかし事実、彼らはわたしとわたしの父とを見て、憎んだのである。

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.

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 The <u>unbelief</u> of the world is somehow understandable, because having once fallen from God the world lost the light to find Him again.

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 But now Jesus, the light of the world, the light of men, has come and he has been rejected by the world.

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- But now Jesus, the light of the world, the light of men, has come and he has been rejected by the world.
- So the world's blindness is more willful than before.

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But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

Why did the world hate Christ?

それは、『彼らは理由なしにわたしを憎んだ』と書いてある彼らの律法の言葉が成就するためである。

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- Why did the world hate Christ?
- There was no good reason. No cause.
- Thus is fulfilled Psalm 35:19 or 69:4

# John 15:26-27

15:26わたしが父のみもとからあなたがたにつかわそうとしている助け主、すなわち、父のみもとから来る真理の御霊が下る時、それはわたしについてあかしをするであろう。

15:27あなたがたも、初めからわたしと一緒にいたのであるから、あかしをするのである。

# John 15:26-27

<sup>26</sup> "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.

<sup>27</sup> And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

わたしが父のみもとからあなたがたにつかわそうとしている助け 主、すなわち、父のみもとから来る真理の御霊が下る時、それは わたしについてあかしをするであろう。

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- But something good is coming!

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- Jesus has just said (Verse 25) that the world's hatred of himself, was without cause, in fulfillment of scripture.
- But something someone good is coming, the Holy Spirit!

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"But when <u>the Helper</u> comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, <u>the Spirit of truth</u>, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

 God the Holy Spirit, will come from God the Father and Son, and He will bear witness about Christ in a new way.

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- God the Holy Spirit, will come from God the Father and Son, and He will bear witness about Christ in a new way.
- This bodes well --- that more will be separated from the world and saved than has happened before.

あなたがたも、初めからわたしと一緒にいたのであるから、あかしをするのである。

And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

あなたがたも、初めからわたしと一緒にいたのであるから、あかしをするのである。

And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

 It will not be only the Holy Spirit who comes to bear fresh witness to Christ.

あなたがたも、初めからわたしと一緒にいたのであるから、あかしをするのである。

<u>And you also will bear witness</u>, because you have been with me from the beginning.

- It will not be only the Holy Spirit who comes to bear fresh witness to Christ.
- It will also be his disciples.

あなたがたも、初めからわたしと一緒にいたのであるから、あかしをするのである。

And you also will bear witness, <u>because you have been with me from</u> the beginning.

 They have been with him from the beginning of his adult earthly ministry. あなたがたも、初めからわたしと一緒にいたのであるから、あかしをするのである。

And you also will bear witness, <u>because you have been with me from</u> the beginning.

- They have been with him from the beginning of his adult earthly ministry.
- They have also been part of God's salvation plan from the beginning of creation. ""

# Comment

- The salvation of (many from out of) the world is the work of the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- It is also the work of the apostolic church.
- These disciples of Jesus will go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim to the whole world the good news about Jesus and what he accomplished on the cross.
- The proclamation of these disciples will be heard and believed by those whom the Holy Spirit has prepared for that purpose.

# Comment

 And of course all of this goes forward in accordance with God's perfect plan.