

John 16:1 – 7

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~ I have previously stated how I feel entirely inadequate to teach this section of Scripture. Quite frankly, I feel as if our last report was too hurried. Our Spiritual Safari is not on a schedule, but it is easy to get bogged down on certain points - and I try to avoid doing that, sometimes to the detriment of a specific teaching. Honestly, I could write as many reports on this Gospel as I have written on the entire Bible – and that is no understatement. Finding the balance of what to leave in and what to leave out is quite difficult for me. When we were in Matthew, I said I want to teach a course in Heaven, and I said we could easily spend a million years learning that Gospel. Well, I think we could just move into and live for eternity studying John's Gospel. We are undertaking the richest and most meaningful set of studies we can possibly obtain in this lifetime.

You will recall we are STILL in the Upper Room Discourse; although we don't think they were still in the upper room at this time. This chapter concludes said discourse with the Lord Jesus speaking to His disciples. In the next chapter, we observe Jesus speak to the Father. Jesus prayed where the disciples could hear Him, and they wrote it down that you and I might also hear Him praying. See, Christ is our Great Intercessor, and we will see the things that He prays for when He prays for us. Interestingly, God doesn't pray for the world.

Looking back briefly into the last chapter, we saw Jesus say those who are His own should love one another. The fact that Jesus had to command us to love is rebuke enough. Loving one another should come naturally to us – but – it doesn't. I also think Jesus said that because we are nowhere near as attractive as we think we are. Mankind feels very good and friendly when we are, in fact, utterly repulsive. Further, believers are continually finding fault with one another and criticizing petty peccadilloes in the life of the next believer. Actually, it's very difficult to get believers to love one another. Of course, Jesus already knew that.

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We closed the last chapter with the Lord telling us who our friends are and who our enemies are. Jesus also said that one reason we are in the world, as believers, is because of the hostilities of the world towards God. The enemy hates God, so the enemy hates us, because we are told to be identified with the Lord Jesus Christ. We were told in the last report by Jesus, “if I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.” That doesn’t mean that these were sinless people and Jesus just wants to point out their faults, though. No, friends – it's not that at all. Before Jesus, they had their own little personal problems and sins – but – when Jesus comes along, He shows them that those sins are nothing compared to rejecting Him as God.

These people would have been better off if they had never seen Him or heard of Him. If you have read any of my previous reports, you can never go into the presence of God and say you haven’t heard about your Savior. Well, that makes me your worst enemy if you still reject Christ. This compounds your guilt, friends. You have now heard the Gospel from me. As most of you know, I am sure there are degrees of reward in Heaven just as there are degrees of punishment in hell. Judas was one who heard the teaching of Christ, was in the presence of Christ – and chose to turn his back on Him in that critical hour.

The truths revealed by the Spirit of God in this chapter concerning the rejection of Christ are absolutely immeasurable. Many people want to argue about the pagan nations of the world that do not have the Gospel and whether or not they are lost. Well, they are lost – but – they are lost because they are sinners – not because they reject Christ. Now, I would rather be that deep jungle dwelling native who has never heard of Jesus as opposed to being the man who sits in the front pew of a Bible believing church every Sunday morning but still turns their back on the Lord Jesus Christ. We’re talking about something for which Jesus has no remedy, friends. The awful sin of rejecting Him should make you shudder and wince; and, if you haven’t already – you will before we’re done in this report. In fact, you’ll likely shudder and wince even if you have accepted Him. This rejection crowd comprises the worst class of human beings in the world. Many of them are in church this morning, too! Oh, yes, they’re singing the

benediction as loud as they can. That, actually, makes them reprehensible beyond any words that I can formulate thought with....

1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.

2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

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

~ This is all connected with what Jesus said previously about the world's hatred of Him. If the gravity of this doesn't weigh you down completely, then you just aren't hearing His voice. The things Jesus spoke to us that we should not be offended are the things He said to us in the last chapter. These things He said to us so that we might not be scandalized.

It is - and always has been - standard practice for founders of the religions of the world to present a glorious and wonderful picture of hope, prosperity and health in the future of their organization. They tell everyone who will listen of some mysterious, wonderful benefits they are going to receive. That's the method of worldly religions. They never seem to address the hardships and disadvantages or privations that you'll suffer for Christ's names sake if you are a genuine child of God. They NEVER mention the sacrifices you'll have to make. Well, I'm sure you notice my teaching is just a little bit different.

Now, Jesus made a tremendous promise in chapter fourteen when He said He was going to prepare a place for us and that He would return to get us. Jesus made it clear that if we are to follow Him down here, it means to forsake all. Jesus already said the foxes have holes and the birds have nests, but the Lord Jesus has not where to lay His head. We were also told that if we are to follow Him we must take up our cross – NOT His cross – OUR cross – to follow Him. If we suffer with Him down here then we shall reign with Him. Jesus was despised down here, friends; and not only that but He was flat rejected. Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief,

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you may recall. Jesus said His followers would be in the world but not of the world; and that the world was going to hate them, too. The offense of the cross has been made perfectly clear to us; and it isn't easy, we are promised trouble in this world.

Well, the church today isn't taking the Gospel into the world in the sound doctrine of the apostles. No, they boast mainly of the fact that they are going to convert the world - and promise false hope to vulnerable people secondly. They've been trying to popularize religion for two thousand years; and man has become a master at it. We can make religion very attractive today to the world. We have all types of devices, methods and gimmicks being employed and they are quite effective at interesting the wholly ungodly. The music in the church has had to lower itself to the level of the world, too; and the reason they claim that they need to do this is to win the world for Christ. Well, Jesus never told us to win the world. The liberal church crept in unawares, and Bible believing denominations went off the rails many years ago with this false premise of a reason for existence – decades ago, in fact. We are talking about fundamental churches that have completely derailed.

There are many enemies of the Word of God in all contemporary church programs today. What they do is attack, mute and block the man trying to teach the Bible properly, correctly and completely. they have no compunction maliciously slandering the man who teaches the Word of God in a sincere, educated and systematic manner. Now, if you teach Scripture wrong, you won't have any problems. In fact, people will love you and support you by the multitude if you handle Holy Writ carelessly and maliciously in error. It's the people who always seem to want to run the church who are never around when the Word of God is taught. They always have something more important to do and they say things that are simply not Scriptural. Friends, if you stand for the Word of God, you are going to have plenty of enemies who are going to make attacks on you constantly – you may be sure of that.

Now, I want you all to read this very, very carefully. If you know a man that believes God and His Word and teaches it properly, correctly and

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completely; and yet you never support that man, but continue to give to some mausoleum of an organization that does not uphold the Word of God: I say – shame on you because you are shameful. There are so few people that actually stand for the correct teaching of the Word of God that if you don't support them – they will disappear from you life so fast you won't know what happened. Many ministers are leaving the ministry and, quite frankly, I am considering it again. Some have walked out of the pulpit mid sermon, and I have no qualms stopping right where we are at in this so-called safari. I think I might go sell secondhand cars because I would rather deal with a secondhand car than with secondhand Christians. If you stand for the Word of God, you'll find the world doesn't love you; and they do not care about you – at all. I hope you dear readers understand what I am saying.

When Jesus said He spoke these things that they “might not be offended” – the Greek word used for “offended” is the same word we have for “to scandalize.” Jesus gave us these sayings that we might not be scandalized. Jesus is warning them ahead of time to strengthen them and let them know what's going to happen. Jesus loves them through to the end, remember; and Jesus is letting them know He is with them, and he knows what they are going through. Jesus told them back in Matthew that they would be offended; and yet here, He says these things that they might not be offended – so, which is it? Well, Jesus knew these men were going to fail Him. Jesus already told Simon Peter he would deny Him this very night. Jesus sustained Peter through that. Jesus told them all of this ahead of time to establish human responsibility, friends. Men today should know they are responsible to God.

Jesus adds insult to injury as He tells them about people killing God's children and thinking they are doing God a favor. These apostles are going to be excommunicated and shut out from the synagogue, and Jesus just casually adds that information as an afterthought. In the days we are studying, this was a terrible thing to have happen. Most so-called Christians are extremely hesitant to leave their liberal crowd in a liberal church. Many times, in fact – MOST times – they have no idea they are even in a liberal church. The other extreme is the group reluctant to take a stand in a

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conservative church. They belong to their little clique, and they refuse to stand for God in the face of adversity. Candidly, I want to say to you – and I realize this is so unpopular you may want to stop reading – but if you are going to stand for Christ, it is going to cost you something, and that “something” is going to be everything. If you don’t want to pay that price, stop dragging God into your dead-end lives; because what’s coming to you is not going to be good. Things will not be well with you if you deal with God on those terms, friends. So, Jesus says they are to be shut out of the synagogue.

What is happening is we are tracing the hatred of the Word of God right down to its very source. The world says they love the Word of God, but they do NOT love the Word of God – they HATE the Word of God – they are just too stupid to know they don't really believe it. These people love darkness because they have never known the light of our Father and they have no idea Who the Lord Jesus Christ is. That’s the type of training He is giving these men; and it’s the same thing the Lord is saying to YOU – RIGHT NOW. The Lord always prepares us for what’s coming; it is a very definite method God uses when we are in His Word and abiding in His direct will by obedience....

4 But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.

5 But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou?

~ Well, Simon Peter DID ask, “Lord, where goeth Thou?” – But Jesus says they didn’t ask because Peter didn’t ask that question sincerely. None of them have discerned an inkling of an idea what is really going to take place yet. The only thing the disciples have filling their hearts is NOT understanding or discernment; what they are concerned with is that Jesus says He is going to leave them and that makes them sorrowful. My friends, this is something Christians need to avoid at all costs. Many Christians get discouraged and leave a church over one bad experience. I know many men

that refuse to darken the door of any church ever again because they had a terrible experience. Others have lost loved ones and they are in constant mourning; these people are absolutely overwhelmed with sorrows like that. Well, Jesus now says, “don’t be overwhelmed with sorrow.” That’s never the way it should be....

6 But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

~ Our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with Jesus saying He is leaving – but that He will send the comforter. The purpose for the Lord Jesus coming to this earth was to die for our sins. Jesus came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and give His life a ransom for many. When that mission is accomplished, Jesus goes back to the Father. It’s certainly best that He went back. When Jesus was here, He took upon Himself our humanity. If Jesus had stayed here on earth, He would not have been omnipresent. The Lord Jesus purposely limited Himself here on earth as a man. We never saw Jesus down in Galilee and, at the same time, also in Bethany; remember, Mary and Martha reminded Him of that when they said, “.... if you had been here our brother had not have died.” If Jesus was a man in the world right now, He wouldn’t be here with me as I type and also be there with you as you read. The Holy Spirit is right here with me, and He is with you, right now, too. You might be able to think of other reasons for Jesus to go away but, either way – it was best that Jesus went away.

One of the several ministries the Holy Spirit has in this world is to reprove the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. “Reproving” means to convict the world. The Greek word used for “reproving” is recorded some twenty-nine times in the trial of Socrates. If you want to check this out, it is a legal term. It means the same as a prosecutor bringing in evidence to make his criminal case in court. The thing the Lord Jesus Christ will convict

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this world of is so interesting we will take most of the next leg of this safari dealing with that truth. So, until we travel together again: may God bless you all richly, my beloved in Christ ~

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