

DO YOU KNOW HIM?
"Why the World Hates Christians"
John 15:17-25

INTRODUCTION:

1. **The Question is this:** What is the relationship between the God who rules the *Kingdom of Heaven* and the *cultures and the nations of the earth*.

2. Christianity is about **LOVE & HATE**

a) **Love**

- 1) **15:12-13, 17**
- 2) **2 Corinthians 5:17-20**

b) **Hate**

- 1) **15:18-19**
- 2) **Matthew 7:13-14**

3. **Vs 18b**

a) *"know that it (world) has hated me before it hated you"*

4. **Vs 19**

a) **Wow!!!** Jesus said there is a clash of Kingdoms...*The kingdom of this world and the Kingdom of God.*

b) Jesus is the King and He brings with Him the Kingdom of God and arrives in the world.

1) **The Kingdom of God is ruled by God.**

a. The kingdom of this world is ruled by Satan.

2) **The Kingdom of God is ruled by truth.**

a. The kingdom of this world is ruled by lies.

3) **The Kingdom of God is about light.**

a. The kingdom of this world is ruled by darkness.

4) **The Kingdom of God is about God's Glory.**

a. The kingdom of this world is about personal glory.

5) **The Kingdom of God is about doing God's will.**

a. The kingdom of this world is about getting what you want.

6) **The Kingdom of God leads to Eternal Life.**

a. The kingdom of this world leads to eternal death.

5. The battle of World Views: **God's Kingdom vs The World**

6. **So how did this conflict get started.**

a) **Genesis 1:31**

1) I believe the fall was after this point. Between Chapter 1

b) **Isaiah 14:12-14**

1) The 5 "I will" statements of Lucifer

c) **Ezekiel 28:11-16**

d) **Revelation 12:7-17**

7. So now we see the **Kingdom of God Vs the Kingdom of Darkness.**

8. **John 15:18-25** is prophetic!

I. CHURCH PERSECUTION BEGINS

A. FROM JEWISH AUTHORITIES

1. We see this in the book of Acts as the **Jewish authorities persecute the church:**

a) **Acts 2**

1) The Church is born.

2) Peter's sermon @ Pentecost

b) **Acts 4**

1) Peter and John arrested and put in jail.

c) **Acts 5**

1) They are put in jail again.

d) **Acts 7**

1) Steven is stoned to death.

e) **Acts 8**

1) Saul persecutes believers everywhere.

f) **Acts 12**

1) The James the brother of John, the (1st apostle) is murdered by Herod.

g) **Acts 12**

1) Herod imprisons Peter holding him until the appropriate time to execute him, but an angel sets him free.

2. In the book of Acts the **Gospel spread throughout the Mediterranean world.**

B. FROM GENTILE AUTHORITIES

1. The **ROMANS** carry on this persecution for nearly 300 years.

a) Reasons for the persecution.

1) **Political**

a. The Romans viewed this as disloyalty to Caesar and therefore treason.

b. The Romans considered Christians as traitors because they would not offer sacrifices to Caesar.

c. Believers recognized only 1 King...King Jesus and another Kingdom...the Kingdom of God.

d. They avoided harassment by meeting in secret and raised suspicion of disloyalty and rebellion.

2) **Social**

a. Because Christ followers refused to worship Roman idols and social activities were tied to idol worship.

b. Because believers were moral in character they rejected the immorality of Rome.

c. Converts to Christianity turned from idol worship.

d. **Christians were bad for business.**

2. There would be a price to pay for being a Christian.

a) **John 15:18**

b) **Matthew 10:34-39**

3. **The OFFICIAL persecution of Christians in ROME began in 64 AD** under Nero.

a) Christians were hunted arrested, tortured, crucified and thrown to wild animals to be killed alive.

4. **Thirty years later around 90 AD Domitian launched another persecution** that extended into Asia Minor.

5. **In 250 AD Emperor Decius** launched a persecution against Christians.

6. Perhaps the most violent of all persecution came around **303AD under Diocletian**

7. This continued until **324 AD When Constantine** came to power.

8. **As the Roman church became a political power, it began to persecute true believers.**

- a) For 1000 years the Roman church persecuted true Christians who disagreed with them.
- b) In all of church history more than 70 million Christians have been martyred.

9. **Vs 18-19**

10. **persecution.org**

II. THE AMERICAN CULTURE vs THE KINGDOM OF GOD

1. **America is part of the Great Experiment.**

- a) America was established on Biblical principles/values of right and wrong.

2. **American values were:**

- a) Life is sacred & to be honored
- b) Marriage is sacred...a man and a woman
- c) Children and families are important
- d) The right to private property

3. **Almost everybody was connected to a church and you attended at least 3 times in your life.**

- a) Baptism
- b) Marriage
- c) Death

4. **No commitment to Christ...just a general respect for the church.**

5. **In America we had for generations a general cultural Christianity.**

- a) **And then came the 60's and 70's where we see the "Counter Cultural Revolution".**

6. **And as Christians our job is not to line up with a political party but to be ambassadors of the Kingdom of God and to live Kingdom down and not culture up.**

III. THE WORLD vs CHRISTIANS

1. **If you have the fear of man issues, you will find it hard to be a faithful Christian.**

2. If you just want everybody to like you, and avoid conflict, you will find it hard to be a faithful Christian.

3. Vs 20

4. Vs 21

5. Vs 22-25

CONCLUSION:

1. The greatest offense to our culture is the *Gospel*.