

Not The Same God

9-1-24

John 15:23 (ESV)

Jesus said, “Whoever hates ME hates MY Father also.”

Often you hear people say that it doesn't matter what religion we are. They will say, “We all believe in the same God.”

However, Jesus says the exact opposite. As in John 14:6. Jesus says, I AM the way the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through ME. Then here again, Jesus says, “Whoever hates ME hates MY Father also.” People say that there are many religions and many ways to God when in fact there are many ways to HELL and only one way to God. Jesus has been telling us about all HIS promises. Now HE must warn us that many in the world will hate us.

John 15:18–19 (ESV)

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.

Jesus is warning us so that we will be prepared to stand strong when faced with the hatred of the world. At the close of this section, Jesus says:

John 16:1 (ESV)

I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.

We shouldn't be surprised. Once we trust Jesus as our Savior, we are on a different wavelength and tuned into a different frequency than the rest of the world.

Those of the world don't listen to us they listen to the world. Jesus is not saying that the world always hates every believer. But whenever we, the community of faith, exposes sin and the wickedness of the world, we should expect rejection.

1 John 4:5 (ESV)

They are from the world; therefore, they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.

We are not to be discouraged because we are “tuned” into Jesus who is “over” the world, and HE carries out HIS purposes through us HIS people.

1 John 4:4 (ESV)

You are from God and have overcome the world, for **HE who is in you is greater than HE who is in the world.**

What a great truth, “Greater is HE who is in us than he who is in the world.” The full power of God resides in us. Now after warning us that the world will hate us, Jesus repeats for the 3rd time in the book of John that HE will send us a Helper, the Parakletos.

John 15:26–27 (ESV)

²⁶ But when the Helper (Parakletos) comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth (Parakletos), who proceeds from the Father, HE (Parakletos) will bear witness about ME (Jesus). ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with ME (Jesus) from the beginning.

To keep us from being discouraged and falling away, Jesus tells us that HE will send us someone just like HIMSELF, the Parakletos, the Counselor, the Advocate, the Helper. This Parakletos is the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit, and HE will bear witness to Jesus. Thus, we who receive the Parakletos will receive power and bear witness to Jesus.

For the important task of witnessing about Jesus, we must have complete experiential knowledge of Jesus. Without the witness of the Spirit, our witness would be powerless.

The Parakletos, the Counselor, the Advocate, the Helper is to be understood and communicated through the believer. The basis of our witness is our own experience of Jesus.

Remember “The Parakletos who is in us is greater than he who is in the world.”

This is not the same god of other religions. This is the God of all creation, Jesus our Savior, and the Holy Spirit, the Parakletos, who dwells within us. This is HE whom we trust.

Ephesians 3:20–21 (ESV)

²⁰ Now to HIM who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,
²¹ to HIM be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

To HIM be glory in the church! Sometimes in the world things look dark and hopeless. But often, the darkness is evidence that Jesus is about to do far more than we can imagine.

Psalm 18:11–12 (ESV)

He made darkness HIS covering, HIS canopy around HIM, thick clouds dark with water -then- hailstones and coals of fire broke through HIS clouds.

When we live in the “far more abundantly than all that we ask or think”, we are not shaken by the great trials and storms that come at us. We have a refuge.

Psalm 57:1 (ESV)

In the shadow of YOUR wings, I will take refuge, “till” the storms of destruction pass by.

We are to rest quietly under the wings of God until the storms of destruction pass by. As we rest safely in the shadow of God’s wings, the only thing destroyed by the storms are the wicked and the devastating circumstances. The violent storm will blow away the debris, clutter, and obstacles that hinder us. Therefore, after the storm we can better live out the “far more abundantly than all that we ask or think”.

Proverbs 10:25 (NIV)

When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever.

Fear not, we have the one God, the only God. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit who is the Parakletos dwelling in us.

Acts 2:38 (ESV)

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”