

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
  - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
  - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
    - 1. Opposition in Jerusalem (5:1-47)
    - 2. Opposition in Galilee (6:1-71)
    - 3. Settled Opposition in Jerusalem (7:1-10:39)
    - 4. Belief across the Jordan (10:40-42)
    - 5. Hardened Opposition in Jerusalem (11:1-12:36)
    - 6. The hour has come (12:20-36)
  - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

## The World Hates Me

*Gospel of John, Part XXIV*

John 7:1-13

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### I. The Ekklesia

The Church consists of those whom God has called out of the mass of humanity and separated unto Himself. What this means is that the Church is to be characterized but an unrelenting opposition to the world. *God* establishes an *antithesis* between His own people and those whom He leaves in the power of the Evil One. Their thinking processes are entirely different. The man of the world is oriented horizontally. The man of God is oriented vertically. These base motivations are entirely different.

### II. Jesus and the World

#### A. The Setting (1-2 cf. vv. 12, 32)

The Feast of Tabernacles took place around October of each year. It was a harvest festival that also commemorated God's deliverance of His people in the wilderness.

#### B. The Brothers' Suggestion (3-5)

Jesus' brothers, like most Jews of the day, imagined that the Messiah would be a powerful political figure who would seize political power and overthrow Israel's earthly enemies. And so his brothers endeavor to lure Jesus to Jerusalem with the promise of success and glory.

#### C. The World's Hatred (6-8)

Because Jesus' brothers are operating according to the principles of the world – that the pathway to glory is by seizing that glory – *the world cannot hate them; but it hates Jesus because He testifies of it that its works are evil.*

#### D. The Crowd's Murmuring (9-13 cf. 9:22)

The reason for the crowd's fear is revealed later in 9:22 – *they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.*

### III. Application

#### A. Beware your relations (cf. Mk 3:20-21, 31-35; Gal 3:26-29)

In our fallen world there is a relationship even more fundamental than that of family – being part of the family of God. Jesus insists that a favorable response to the Word of God is that which defines true kinship. When family loyalty conflicts with loyalty to Jesus and to His family, Jesus must be chosen (Galatians 3:26-29):

*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

#### B. Beware your ambitions (Mk 4:18-19; 1 Pet 5:10)

*"The children of God suffer worse annoyance from their relations than from outsiders, for they are Satan's instruments to tempt either to ambition or to avarice those who desire to serve God purely and faithfully. But Christ repels such Satans sharply and warns us by His example not to yield to the foolish wishes of our brethren."* Calvin, 1:181.

Jesus brothers are acting like the seed sown among thorns in the parable of the Sower. Jesus explains, *"Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful"* (Mk 4:18-19). Beware your ambitions.

If we serve God faithfully and wait on Him to satisfy our ambitions, then we will inherit glory even as Jesus has. *But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you* (1 Pet 5:10).

#### C. Beware the world (Jn 15:18-25; 1 Jn 3:13)

*"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 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 keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'*

### IV. Conclusion