

DCF 170520 John 10:31-42 Jesus the Son of God

³¹ *Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. ³² Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?"*

³³ *The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."*

The fact that a world that does not believe there is a God, yet still hates God, is proof that **there is a God**. There is a hatred toward God in our fallen world. We see it blatantly in the persecution of believers worldwide. The real God-haters are rarely the agnostics -people who have never thought deeply about Christianity. The real God-haters are often ones who have tried to start a relationship with God on their own terms and failed. The other God haters are seen in Rev 11:7 where the two witnesses are killed by the beast. I believe these 2 witnesses are Israel and the Church, and the beast is the UN. We see satan or the dragon at war with Israel and the church in Rev 12:17 where **"the dragon was enraged with the woman (Israel) and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, (church), who keep the commandments of God.**

The Jews in today's passage, had stuck to the written rules and missed the heart of God. I met an ex-pastor like that and was amazed at his hatred for God. They may have admitted and confessed they were sinners. And some may have even believed that Jesus was the Son of God. But when it came to committing their lives to God, they wanted 'their own will to be done'. They wanted a God who would guarantee happiness, health and prosperity. They wanted a God who would always grant their request, and when it did not happen, they hated Him. They had never grasped that Jesus Himself was **despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Is 53:3.**

The writer of Hebrews says of them in **6: 4 ⁴For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.**

A relationship has to be alive, if it is to grow in depth and insight and actions. Peter says of them **in 2 Peter 2:21 ²¹For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²²But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."**

John 10:34 ³⁴ *Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods" '?"*

The Greek is literally 'gods'. And Jesus is quoting from Psalm 82:6 where the Hebrew word is 'elohim' – meaning gods. Jesus is referring to the psalm in which Asaph accuses those entrusted with the administration of justice in our community, who should have modelled their role on God's example as the supreme judge. The psalmist accuses the leaders of the land for abusing their position of power.

Another example is in Ex 21:1-6, where the passage talks about freeing Hebrew slaves after 7 years. The word translated as 'judges' is also "Elohim". So, the Scriptures are saying these special people, commissioned by God, should act as gods.

Now Jesus is saying, surely if there are leaders of the community, referred to as gods, because they had roles modelled on God's example, why can't they see that Jesus' amazing miracles, demonstrate the character of God by His works?

John 10:35 ³⁵ *If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),* ³⁶ *do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?* ³⁷ *If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me;* ³⁸ *but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."* ³⁹ *Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand.*

Now Jesus is stating that he has been sanctified by God the Father. Literally this means He has been set apart for a special purpose. We too are sanctified by faith in Christ. 1 Cor 1:2 ² ***To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints,...*** Our lives are not aimless. We too have been set apart for a special purpose. Jesus was very conscious of His special task – we need to pray for such an awareness of our own calling too. As we pray 'Thy kingdom come', we are setting our will to achieve God's purpose for our lives.

Most importantly, we measure people's love from their heart. And their actions are the overflow of their heart. So, the widow who puts in 2 mites at the temple is more honored than those who gave out of their abundance. Mark 12:41 Jesus tells His disciples: ***"Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; ⁴⁴ for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."*** But it is actions that come out of the overflow of the heart, which testify to love. Luke 6:45 ⁴⁵ ***A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the***

heart his mouth speaks. So, what they needed to do was to see beyond the words that Jesus spoke, and even beyond the miracles which He did, to the very heart of Jesus. After Jesus raises the son of the widow at Nain Luke reports in **7:21** ²¹ **And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.** He did not get rid of the Romans. He did not get more cash for the temple. He did not position Himself into the Sanhedrin. But for those who looked, His heart was obvious.

That is why we have to devour the Scriptures. Young believers need to know narratives to start their Bible study, but if your quest is to know God and be known by Him, then, you must read the prophets. You must see the loving God, the God in tears, the angry God, God the judge, the forgiving God, the God who corrects, God our Father, the patient God, the merciful God and much, much more. You must pray for the Holy Spirit to connect the words you read with your soul, your pride, your trespasses, your goals, your daily schedule, the people next to you and more.

Actions speak a lot louder than words. And people see actions. But only those with real discernment see even beyond the actions, to the heart. So, when people look at you, most will hear words and see actions. Let us make sure that what we do reflects our faith in Christ. And when we look at others, let us try to see heart. That is where the seed, the good seed of God is planted. Luke 8:15 ¹⁵ **But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.**

In our warfare prayer for the unsaved, whom God has placed in our lives, we pray:

- That every seed that is planted will not be plucked away by the devil. We pray for God's covering protection over every word that is spoken into their lives.
- We pray that they will not be sidetracked by temptation to fall away. We curse every avenue of temptation that satan brings against them.
- We pray for a clarity to see how the burdens, riches and the pleasures of life can stunt our growth as believers. There is so much idolatry in this world, we pray that our own eyes will be opened to see it.

And in all of these events we pray to know the heart of God.

John 10:40 ⁴⁰ **And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was baptizing at first, and there He stayed.** ⁴¹ **Then many came to Him and said, "John performed no sign, but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true."** ⁴² **And many believed in Him there.**

Sometimes we have to walk quite far to come to Jesus. Deciding to come to Him can be quick. But getting rid of the baggage can take years. Why did Jesus go away beyond the Jordan and make it harder for people to come to Him? One reason would have been that He wanted to spend time with God before He faced the crowds. We have to prepare for battle.

John the Baptist had come and received huge respect. But he had no mighty deeds. So, they saw a difference between John and Jesus. But any hopes or expectations that John gave of Jesus were vastly exceeded. Worldly hopes are so often dashed. We worship a God ***who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Eph 3:20,21.***

There is not enough merit given to effort. In Luke 6:40 we see a word being used for “perfectly trained”. ⁴⁰ ***A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.*** The word is *katertismenos*. In Heb 11:30 the same word is translated ‘framed’. ³ ***By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God,...*** In Matt 4: 21 it is used for James and John mending nets. In Matt 21:16 it is used for babies preparing praise for God. Then in 2 Cor 13:11 Paul concludes his letter, using the same word, saying ***Finally brethren, rejoice, be made complete.***

So much of our character needs mending like a broken net. It is an arduous, time consuming task, but so necessary if we are to be used effectively for God. To be perfectly trained, is far from instantaneous. For one thing we have to admit we are wrong. That can take months or years or a life time. And then even after we admit that we are wrong, and while we are attending to our mistakes, we see many more. In this life, confession and repentance is endless.

All of these corrections are part of a long journey as we determine to know the heart of Jesus. So, why does Jesus make them travel so far to find Him? Sometimes we have to prove that we really want to find Him. Spiritual completeness will not happen in this life time – but it has to start now.

Paul prays for the Corinthian church to be made complete. We cannot take baggage on a long hike. What are the things hampering your journey to know the heart of God?

Finally, Jesus was the Son of God. He was God made in the flesh. He knew our hardships and sorrows. John began his gospel with this totally mind – blowing statement.

John 1:1 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

...

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Our huge privilege is that we have been saved to spend eternity with Jesus, the Son of God. Amazing!

Final song: Amazing Grace.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-4NFvI5U9w>

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"

Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

[2x]

My chains are gone
I've been set free

My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, Who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.
Will be forever mine.
You are forever mine.

Homework:

- Look at the ones who once have fallen away in 2 Peter 2:18-22 and Hebrews 6:1-8. Compare that with marriage.
- Read the comment on Psalm 82: 6 to understand the quote Jesus makes.

Verse 6. Ye are gods, etc. It is, of course, to civil governors, especially those entrusted with the administration of justice, that the prophet addresses this stern admonition. He calls them "the gods," and "the sons of the Most High." To the people of Israel this kind of appellation would not seem over bold: for it was applied to judges in well known texts of the Law of Moses. Thus, in the code of civil statutes delivered at Sinai, it is said, Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people. [Exodus 22:28](#) . Nor is that the only instance of the kind. In two other passages of the same code ([Exodus 21:6](#) 22:8- 9), the word which our translators have rendered "the judges" is in the Hebrew, "the gods," or "God."

- See Ex 22:9 and Ex 21:6 for how Elohim is translated as "judges".
- See too Acts 26:18 that we have been sanctified. What have you been set apart to do?
- Read the parable of the sower in Luke 8: 5-15. How can we pray for people to hear God and share His heart?
- Puzzle: what do these verses have in common? Heb 11:3 , Luke 6:40, Matt 4:21, 1 Thess 3:10, Gal 6:1, 2 Cor 13:11, Matt 21:16.