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The Spirit and the World, Part 1

John 15:18-27



Background:

Here in the west, we mostly live to be comfortable. In this week's text from the upper room discourse, we find Jesus describing life along his way as anything but comfortable. In fact, he says that life along his way will be characterized by being hated and being persecuted. So, how will we make it along his way? With the help of the blessed paraclete. Join us this Sunday as we return to more teaching about our friend, the paraclete.

Sermon Text (ESV):

John 15:18-27

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. 20 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 also keep yours. 21 But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been

guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 Whoever hates me hates my Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. 25 But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

Discussion Questions:

- Preparation
 - What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
 - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
 - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
 - What is your initial reaction to Bonhoeffer's description of the cost of discipleship? *Suffering is the badge of true discipleship because Christ himself suffered. It is not at all surprising that Christians should be called to suffer.*
 - Shawn described "the world" as used in John's gospel as "human society organizing itself without God". What are some specific examples today of the world resisting, rejecting and/or rebelling against the living God?
 - And yet, the pull to conformity with the world is so strong! How do you/have you seen yourself being *squeezed* into the "world mold"?
 - Where do you need the Paraclete's help to squeeze you into the "Jesus mold" instead?
 - In this passage, the role of the Paraclete is to bear witness to Jesus. In what situations or relationships are you taking on this burden yourself? Only the Paraclete can break through resistance and transform hearts & minds!
 - Finally, how does this perspective about evangelism from pastor Darrell Johnson help or encourage you? *Evangelism is listening in on a conversation the Holy Spirit is already having with another person, and only speaking if the Spirit or that person invites you to.*