

When The World Seems Like Your Enemy

Verses for the post

John Chapter 15

- John 15: 18-20

Good Morning/Afternoon! Now, as most of you have probably known this, it's hard being a teenager in today's world. We've got many influences (good and bad), role models, family insight into our lives and friends who might not be too keen on no peer pressure. Not only do we have all of these external surroundings that can negatively impact us, we also have these things called social media. Social media today is an entity we have all given power to. Sometimes it's something teenagers today listen to more than their own parents.

Currently, I'm 18 and a junior in college. Not only do I have all of these outside forces looking down on me, I am also a wholehearted Christian (obviously Jeanna... what's your point?).

As a growing young woman I face many.. many battles both mentally and physically. Let me just say the day doesn't always seem to like me. Today's lesson is going to be a little more blunt and deep than the other ones.

So here it goes...

I want you to look at John 15: 18-20. This group of verses is by far some of my favorite verses. I can say from these verses, if it constantly feels like the world hates you and you don't feel/know what you're doing wrong because you're in your bible and doing things for God.. then it's probably safe to say that you're on the right path if the world hates you.

¹⁸If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. ²⁰Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his LORD. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

First I'm going to start off by saying the world IS your enemy, so it's okay to feel like everything is against you. Verse 19, Jesus tells us, "**but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.**" Right there Jesus is explaining to us that the world is not our home. We are chosen out of it and because of that we are not going to have this happy-go-lucky time here. When you're a Christian you are automatically signed up to receive trials and battles. Automatically signed up to go through many different struggles. It doesn't matter if it's mental or physical you ARE going to go through hardships. In verse 20 He says, "**The servant is not greater than his LORD.**"

PAUSE....Let's dive a little deeper.

We are (obviously) not greater than Jesus. Jesus is God's son (basic info I know). Now I want to ask you something. I'm going to list a few things Jesus went through throughout his life.

1. Right when he was born King Herod wanted Him dead
2. He was betrayed by friends (the ever so famous Judas)
3. Denied by friends (*cough* Peter)
4. Was welcomed by the same city that soon wanted Him dead
5. Beaten & Whipped
6. (based on ancient Roman crucifixion) had his flesh ripped off by the hooks on the whip
7. Mocked
8. Accused by the High Priest
9. Persecuted
10. Given vinegar water when he thirst
11. Had a thorn crown placed on his head
12. AND HAD TO CARRY HIS OWN CROSS TO THE HILL THEY LET HIM DIE ON

That's only a few things but I believe I covered the major points. Now back to verse 20. We as Christians cannot expect to not go through certain things in our lives that cause us to stumble. We absolutely cannot expect that. I also am sick of hearing Christians complain about their lives and how they believe their lives aren't worth anything. OF COURSE YOU ARE NOT WORTH ANYTHING HERE BECAUSE HONEY YOU ARE NOT FROM HERE! It is God who sees your true worth. I wholeheartedly believe that there are too many Christians today complaining. God did not send His son to DIE and take on everything for you to complain because something didn't go your way. {John 3 :16} God loved the world, His children, His people.. that he gave his son for us to glorify Him. Tell others about Him. This post is to hopefully encourage whoever is reading this to understand that complaining and wallowing in self pity gets you nowhere. Yes you're struggling but when was the last time you truly sat yourself down and said "God lead me to what you want to teach me". The prince of this world is the devil, so why get so upset when it's the world trying to bring you down?

As a Christian in today's society I unfortunately see a lot of peers "end" their Christianity in order to either do what they want or simply because they just didn't feel/believe anymore. Of course I keep somewhat of a hold on my tongue because it's not me but God who knows who's saved and who's not. However I see that most of the time Christians turn away from God based on the devil's doings. Which saddens me to see because again I don't know what *they* don't know. All I can say is, I know that God didn't change. His word is still His word.

The world at times seems like your enemy, because it is your enemy. Spiritually it's a battle and the devil is here to destroy. The devil wants you to die. Die how? Spiritually. He is here to take down as many as he can with him. Just like he tried with Jesus. SO with that being said. If you're going through something, mentally or physically or both, please just stop what you are doing and look to God for guidance. The devil is on your back and knows your weakness. So don't complain if you're not doing what God tells us to do in times like this. That's like not reaching for the cure when it's right in front of you. Don't let the devil trick you into becoming his friend. The devil was God's best angel, and this world will destroy you if you turn away from God.