

## ENCOUNTER JESUS #26: John 15:18-27 "THE POWER OF CHOOSING A SIDE"

LIVE IN A CULTURE OF DISINFORMATION – ppl complain – willing to be disinformed  
**WILLING TO BE GASLIGHTED** The term “gaslighting” comes from the 1944 movie *Gaslight*. In the movie, an abusive husband brightens and dims gas-powered lights, then insists that his wife is hallucinating, causing her to doubt her sanity. **Manipulation created through deliberate confusion**  
**world’s system gaslights – undermine truth – untethered - offers peace/war; satisfaction/empty; hope/despair; exhilaration/addicted – leaves lives ruins**  
**MP: When you follow Jesus, He sets you free from the manipulative tactics of the world, drawing you into His kingdom to be a light for His glory and a witness of His love.**

### JESUS REQUIRES A DECISION

TWO MOST PFUL WORDS FOLLOW ME.... **DIVERGENCE**: separation, departure  
Yes apprentice, yes do all the rabbi does, yes follow the pattern – **REQUIRES A CHOICE**

- **Process (U) – clear point in time – you have to get there – I HAVE DECIDED**

**Matthew 10:34 Don’t think I came to bring peace but a sword.**

- Yes – peace with God, peace with self, peace with others, peace with god’s plan
  - o Not: You’re fine just like you are..**EXCLUSIVE - IAM – REQUIRES A CHOICE**

### EVERYTHING IS UPSIDIE

Following Jesus is all upside, no downside. When you choose Him, you discover you have already been chosen. Spurgeon: Whosoever will may come, chosen from before the foundation of the world.

**CHOSEN TO CHRIST** – **John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you. Chosen, Redeemed, alive to God, approved, justified, sanctified, sealed**

**CHOSEN OUT OF THIS WORLD**: Once darkness/now light; child disobedience/child of God; lost/found; condemned/forgiven; hell/heaven

**1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.**

- **THERE’S DIFF – what humanity really supposed to look like? - CHURCH**

**We are a picture of the way God intended it to be. How’s the that going for us?? US**

### THE REACTION WILL BE MIXED

**SOME WILL BELIEVE – SOME RXN VICERAL**

**DA CARSON: ‘If they persecuted me (and many of them did), they will persecute you also; if they obeyed my teaching (and some of them did), they will obey yours also.**

**YOU ARE NOT GOING TO FIT IN – NOT OF THIS WORLD – way you live your life, choices you make, integrity you have, the things you’re not for and things you are for**

- **LOSS**: respect, perceived, accepted / Shame, mock, ridicule, marginalized

**Downright Demonic Attack – people are convicted... You’re making a difference**

If the way you follow Jesus doesn't make any unbelievers uneasy, you have to question how you follow Him.

Boss I'm not going to lie to get the sale, not going club I love my wife, stop bullying this person on social media, this gossip is not right.

PUSH BACK MEANS HIS NAME IS HAVING AN IMPACT THROUGH YOUR LIFE

- SOME: how many people I can offend – use Jesus' name like a grenade
- NAME: Represents all that He is: who and what – **A STREAM FLOWING DIFF.**
  - o UR SUFFERING: Bringing His kingdom into the hearts of men women. **X**

Acts 5:41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

### **THE POINT IS TO BE HIS WITNESS**

WE AREN'T ANTI-CULTURE or ANTI-PEOPLE,

- We don't isolate ourselves – **we are in the world but not of the world**

Hate not option - HATE ONE WAY STREET **might come to u can't come from u**

If the church's response to the world is hatred who is going to be drawn to the gospel?

- THE SPIRIT - Strengthens you to be His witness; opposition – PPL WATCHING

While we know our faith works *because* it is true people need to see that it's true *because* it works.

- Marriage work? – important world/children. Sense of Identity? Are they really satisfied? Do they make good decisions? How do they react to adversity?

**MAYBE SOMETHING TO HIS**

**WITNESS:** Being a witness is more than stating facts about Jesus it's about radiating the king and his kingdom thru your life.

The place of power isn't fear, or compromise, it's not being in the middle, it's not hiding your faith. IT'S WHEN YOU FOLLOW CHRIST WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART – BOLD

**WITNESS – FILLED WITH GRACE AND TRUTH**