

## I. Can't Satisfy Some People

### A. Motive doesn't matter

1. Sometimes, no matter how good and holy your motive is for acting in a particular way or doing a particular thing, you are going to make someone angry
  - a. It won't matter that you are living out your faith.
  - b. It won't matter that you are being obedient, loving, faithful, kind-hearted, gracious or righteous in the eyes of God.
  - c. It won't matter that you have Bible verses informing your choices, history supporting your opinions, or heaven leading your sacrifice
2. Sometimes, no matter how godly your choices life in the world is, someone is going to rise up in resentment and resist you, your efforts, and the glory you hoped to bring to God

### B. Examples

1. Jesus came to bring life and joy and grace and mercy and light and knowledge of God, and they crucified Him
2. Paul said that he attempted to be all things to all men, but even then he could only hope to win some, not all, and he experienced the ire and rejection of those he could not win.
3. Nehemiah makes the long journey from the capital with the blessing of the king, and all he's doing is rebuilding the wall of a ruined city in order to bring glory to God and restore God's glory among the people, and he makes instant enemies.
  - a. Sanballat is greatly displeased 2:1
  - b. Sanballat despises 2:19
  - c. Sanballat is greatly enraged 4:1
  - d. Sanballat plots violence and murder 4:8

### C. The questions

1. Why do people oppose the efforts of faith-filled people to bring glory to God?
2. How can we respond faith-fully in a faith-less world?

## II. Why do lost people oppose active Christian faith?

### A. The world acts exactly as Jesus said they would

1. No need to be surprised by otherwise sudden rejection
  - a. **Luke 21:17 (ESV) <sup>17</sup> You will be hated by all for my name's sake.**
  - b. **Luke 6:22 (ESV) <sup>22</sup> "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.**
  - c. **Mark 13:13 (ESV) <sup>13</sup> And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.**

2. Every believer should expect resistance from the lost people of the world, if for no other reason than Jesus' warning

**B. The world has no relational knowledge of God**

1. The lost people of this world do not know God
  - a. **John 7:28 (ESV)** <sup>28</sup> *So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know.*
  - b. **John 15:21 (ESV)** <sup>21</sup> *But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.*
2. What they don't know
  - a. They don't know that He is love
  - b. They don't know that He is good
    - (1) Letter RE: News-Herald column
    - (2) How can any "good God" throw a baby into a tree a mile from his home in a tornado and make his parents take three days to find him?
    - (3) They have no reference point in the character of God to understand their sorrows in the world.
  - c. They don't know that His glory outshines anything they value in this world
  - d. They don't know His character, His mercy, His intent
  - e. They don't know Him and by nature they do not trust what they do not know.

**C. The world has no relational knowledge of Jesus**

1. **John 15:18-19 (ESV)** <sup>18</sup> *"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> 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.*
2. The world has no saving relationship with Jesus, which means
  - a. They retain the guilt and shame of their sin without hope of relief
  - b. They remain enslaved to pride and selfishness, and the need to protect what little they have of themselves by self-justification and self-aggrandizement
  - c. They do not know forgiveness and freedom and joy and eternal hope
3. But they could, if you will tell them!
  - a. "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes; to the Jew first and also to the Greek."
  - b. If you will refuse to be silent, if you will refuse to hide from your church or your family or your home, if you will open wide your heart and your life and your lips and tell the world of Jesus and His love, some will come to know.

**D. The world has no grasp of their eternal destiny**

1. **John 8:14 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup> *Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.*
  - a. Think of where Jesus has come from
    - (1) No sorrow
    - (2) No fear
    - (3) No pain
    - (4) No want
    - (5) No darkness
  - b. They don’t know heaven or the character and hope of heaven
2. They have no reason to look forward, forced to dwell in this moment as if there is no other
3. Can you imagine a more hopeless existence?
  - a. You can help them!
  - b. Paul to Timothy: “Be ready in season and out of season to give a reason for the hope that is within you.”
  - c. Your testimony, your witness of eternal hope could change the very nature of someone’s existence.

**E. The world has no grasp of their creation relationship with their Creator**

1. **John 1:10 (ESV)** <sup>10</sup> *He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.*
2. If we do not know our Creator, we do not know why we are here.
  - a. We do not know what our life means?
  - b. We do not know what good we are or what good we have to do.
  - c. We have no choice but to make up life as we go and see what works for the majority in order to make our journey as easy as possible.
3. You know why we are here.
  - a. To fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord
  - b. We are created to know God and reveal the glory of the Lord through a faithful, trusting, loving, relying relationship with Him.
  - c. You could help someone find their purpose.

**F. The world has no appreciation for evil or desire to be released from slavery to sin**

1. Scriptural Reality
  - a. **John 3:20 (ESV)** <sup>20</sup> *For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.*
  - b. **Galatians 4:8 (ESV)** <sup>8</sup> *Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.*
2. Slavery is normal for someone born a slave.
3. You can show them the value and means of freedom.

**G. The world resents those who have gained what they have not**

1. **John 17:14 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup> *I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the*

*world.*

2. **1 Corinthians 1:21 (ESV) <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.**
3. The world cannot gain what God offers through worldly means.
  - a. God has ordained the preaching of the cross of Christ, the gospel, the good news, to be the means by which people realize faith and come to God.
  - b. Reminder:
    - (1) What we have said of the lost has been true of every one of us.
    - (2) **1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (ESV) <sup>9</sup> Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

### **III. What hope does a lost, hostile world have?**

- A. God's plan of redemption through Jesus
- B. Your willing effort to spread the knowledge of the glory of the Lord throughout the whole earth by faithfully, consistently, sacrificially, and fearlessly sharing the good news that came to you and changed your life.