

Lesson 55

Disillusioned

Icebreaker:

Have you ever been disillusioned about something before? If so, what was it?

Introduction:

Near the end of the Last Supper Jesus began talking to His disciples about various relationships they would be involved in. First he talked about their relationship with Him. *“Abide in Me, and I in you.”* Then He discussed their relationship with one another. *“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.”* And finally He talked to them about their relationship with the world. *“If the world (kosmos) hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world (kosmos), the world (kosmos) would love its own; but because you are not of the world (kosmos), but I chose you out of the world (kosmos), because of this the world (kosmos) hates you.”*

When Jesus used the term “world”, He wasn’t talking about the earth¹ with its landmasses, oceans, lakes, rivers, mountains and prairies. Instead the Scriptures use the Greek word kosmos (world).² The word kosmos is translated as “adornment”. It’s the way things **appear** or the way things **operate** here on earth. The same root word is used in two familiar passages of Scripture concerning how Christian women should appear.

*Your **adornment** (root word – **kosmos**) must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. (1 Peter 3:3-4)*

*Likewise, I want women to **adorn** (root word – **kosmos**) themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. (1 Timothy 2:9-10)*

When we see a woman all dressed up in fancy clothes and jewelry she looks really attractive, however it doesn’t tell us anything about the woman herself. It’s just the way she appears. It’s an **illusion!** And that is the same way the world (kosmos) is ... it’s an illusion. The things of this world look attractive however they are not as they appear.³ The Scriptures tell us that Satan, the father of lies, governs all the kingdoms of this world (kosmos). Therefore, everything in it is wearing a deceptive mask ... it’s an illusion. In fact you could substitute the word illusion for the word, world (kosmos). For example we could read a familiar verse from the book of James as, *“You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world (illusion) is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world (illusion) makes himself an enemy of God.”*

¹ If Jesus had been talking about the earth, it’s physical aspects or inhabitants the Greek word “ge” would have been used.

² There are two other primary Greek words used in New Testament Scripture, which are translated “world”. The first is “aion”. It is also translated as age because it speaks to the aspect of time ... a period of existence or duration. The second is “ikoumene”. It refers to the concept of area ... the globe.

³ The subject of “things are not as they appear” was the theme of the “Matrix” movie trilogy (2002-2005).

According to the dictionary an illusion is a false idea or conception. It is belief or opinion not in accord with the facts ... an unreal, deceptive, or misleading appearance or image. Many people use the word **disillusioned** in a negative sense, however to be disillusioned is actually quite good. The word disillusioned simply means to be free from illusion or false ideas

Reading The Scripture:

John 15:18–16:33

Hated Without A Cause

John 15:18-25

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible, authored by Michael Gibson, Founder of Spirit & Truth, dba Key 2 Changes: "Follow Me: A Message from God", a Journey with Jesus)

"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. But they have done this in order that the word may be fulfilled that is written in their Law, '**THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.**'

'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.': Psalms 35:19 and 69:4.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

John 15:26 - 16:16

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible, authored by Michael Gibson, Founder of Spirit & Truth, dba Key 2 Changes: "Follow Me: A Message from God", a Journey with Jesus)

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me, and you will bear witness also, because you have been with Me from the beginning. These things I have spoken to you, that you may be kept from stumbling. They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. And these things they will do, because they have not known the Father, or Me. But these things I have spoken to you, that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose it to you.”

The Father Loves You

John 16:16-33

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible,
authored by Michael Gibson, Founder of Spirit & Truth, dba Key 2 Changes: "Follow Me: A Message from God", a Journey with Jesus)

"A little while, and you will no longer behold Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me." Some of His disciples therefore said to one another, "What is this thing He is telling us, 'A little while, and you will not behold Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father'?" And so they were saying, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is talking about." Jesus knew that they wished to question Him, and He said to them, "Are you deliberating together about this, that I said, 'A little while, and you will not behold Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me'? Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned to joy. Whenever a woman is in travail she has sorrow, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she remembers the anguish no more, for joy that a child has been born into the world. Therefore you too now have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one takes your joy away from you. And in that day you will ask Me no question. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you shall ask the Father for anything, He will give it to you in My name. Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be made full. These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will speak no more to you in figurative language, but will tell you plainly of the Father. In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request the Father on your behalf; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from the Father. I came forth from the Father, and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again, and going to the Father." His disciples said, "Lo, now You are speaking plainly, and are not using a figure of speech. Now we know that You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God." Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Group Discussion:

1. Name some illusions that people live under?
2. How do people become disillusioned? By learning the truth. "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31-32)

The Commands:

1. Remember the word that I said to you, "A slave is not greater than his master."
2. Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be made full.
3. But take courage.

The Lesson:

Jesus begins the lesson by telling the disciples that they will be hated by the world. This is quite understandable because the world and its systems are based on lies, while Jesus, His disciples and the Kingdom of God are all based on the truth. Therefore conflict is inevitable.

Jesus continued by saying, "*If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.*" Jesus is so adamant about this truth that He reinforces it with a command, "**Remember** the word I

said to you, 'A slave is not greater than His master'. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you."

In order to combat the world's lies, the Lord promised the disciples that He would send them the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit came He would bear witness along with them that Jesus was *the way, the truth and the life and that no man could come to the Father but through Him*. In addition the Holy Spirit would convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. *It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.* (1 John 5:6)

The coming of the Holy Spirit would be the sign that the Kingdom of God⁴ had come upon the earth. It was the kingdom prophesied by Daniel "the stone cut out of the rock without hands"⁵ that would crush all the kingdoms of this world (kosmos). Each member of this kingdom would be clothed with heavenly armor⁶ and each one would wield the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. And each way that the sword turned it would destroy the lies and illusions of the world.

Jesus told the disciples to ask in His name and that they would receive, that their joy my might be full. Each of us who names Jesus Christ as Lord should be asking Him to make us effective in using the sword of the Spirit against the rulers, powers, world forces of this darkness and the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Yet at the same time we are not to fight against flesh and blood even though our enemies may control people through lies and illusions. It is these people who persecute us not knowing the truth. And like Jesus they may ridicule, torture or kill us. But we are to be of good cheer knowing full well that our hope is not in this world. As Jesus brought the lesson to a close He said, "*These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world (kosmos) you have **tribulation**, but take courage; I have overcome the world (kosmos).*"

Group Discussion:

3. Many Christians believe that everything in their life will be wonderful. What is the truth about this? They forget the Scripture that says in this world you will have tribulation.
4. Many Christians believe that everyone in church is nice, understanding and forgiving. What is the truth about this? Not everyone in a church is a Christian, in fact they may be sent by your enemy to destroy the work. Also Christians are a being conformed to the image of Christ and may not have arrived at maturity.
5. Many Christians believe that when they get married, their lives will be totally fulfilling. What is the truth about this? It takes hard work, dying to one's self and submission to their mate.
6. Many Christians believe that you should trust one another. What is the truth about this? Where is it written that we should trust in any man? According to the Scriptures we should trust only in God. (Ps 20:7, Ps 56:4, Pr 3:5 and Jn 14:1)
7. Many Christians believe that spiritual growth just happens. What is the truth about this? Spiritual growth is a process in which the believer is conformed to the image of Christ by hearing the Word of God and obeying it. At various points in his life he will undergo testing.

⁴ The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17)

⁵ Daniel 2:34 & 44-45.

⁶ Ephesians 6:10-17

8. Many Christians believe that the government can solve their problems. What is the truth about this?

The Point Of The Lesson:

Welcome disillusionments by welcoming truth. Rejoice when you are persecuted for truth because it affirms your transformation into the image of Christ.

Application:

Write down one event that occurs in the near future in which you were persecuted for telling the truth and tell your group about it.