

John 15:21-25  
July 23, 1989  
Rome Georgia  
November 22, 2015  
November 29, 2015

Around 1970, a **diamond** of magnificent beauty was placed on display in New York City. Although the huge stone of almost **70 carats** was worth well over \$1 million dollars, the owner kindly allowed it to be shown to the public.

*(if you want to know what a 70 carat diamond looks like, find a magnifying glass that will enlarge things to 280 times their actual size, and look at the diamond on my wife's ring)*

**THE PRAIRIE OVERCOMER** reported that a man looked discerningly at the big diamond and then remarked to his wife, "I SEE A FLAW THERE, BUT I WONT SAY ANYTHING." A well-dressed lady exclaimed, "IT ISN'T REALLY THAT ATTRACTIVE." "IT'S TOO LARGE" declared a woman wearing **cheap rhinestone jewelry**. "I THINK IT IS VULGAR, BUT I JUST HAD TO SEE IT" commented another.

JOE WHITEHEAD, a guard at the store later remarked. "I'VE HEARD MORE SOUR GRAPES IN THE LAST TWO DAYS ABOUT THAT SPLENDID DIAMOND THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME IN MY WHOLE LIFE. SOME PEOPLE JUST HAVE TO CRITICIZE!" db 10-16-72.

**THE CLOSER SOMETHING IS TO PERFECT, THE HARDER PEOPLE LOOK TO FIND FLAWS.**

In **Genesis 37:1-11** we read about a man named **Joseph**. **Joseph was Jacob's favorite son. He enjoyed a relationship with his father that his other 11 brothers did not have.**

So much so, that we read that:

**"WHEN his brethren saw that their father loved him more that all his brethren, THEY HATED HIM, and could not speak peaceably unto him." Gen. 37:4.**

We may not agree with all that Joseph did in these few verses. But we have no reason to believe that his motives (for reporting his brothers evil deeds, and revealing his dreams,) were anything but pure. His brothers **response** to him was **unjustified**. They acted out of **JEALOUSY, ENVY, AND AN EVIL HEART.**

**THE INNER CAUSE OF ALL HATRED IS THE ABSENCE OF A KNOWLEDGE OF GOD!**

**"God is love" and to know the love of God is to know how to live without hatred. But those who do not know God - hate with a pure unblemished hatred - they love to hate, and they hate the thought of God's love!**

**\*\*\*Islamic god vs God of love. -----**

**Joseph testified concerning the sinfulness of his brethren,**

he had a special relationship with his father

he spoke of coming days of glory -

BECAUSE OF THIS - HE WAS HATED BY HIS BRETHREN.

**LIKEWISE - JESUS**

TESTIFIED CONCERNING THE SINFULNESS OF HIS BRETHREN,

HE HAD A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS FATHER HE SPOKE OF  
COMING DAYS OF GLORY -

And likewise he too was **hated by men** ! (*including his brothers – cf. John 7:2-5*)

**Men** whose evil deeds were made manifest by the light:

**John 1:9** (JESUS) was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

**John 3:19** And this is the condemnation, that **light is come into the world**, and **MEN LOVED DARKNESS RATHER THAN LIGHT**, because their deeds were evil.

**Men** who could not tolerate one whose relationship to the Father was unique in every way.

**John 5:17** . . . Jesus answered them, **My Father worketh hitherto, and I work**. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

**John 5:20** For the **Father loveth the Son**, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

*(The eternal love of the Father for the Son differentiates Jehovah God from the selfish, loveless god of Islam.)*

Jesus was **hated by men** whose hope of glory lay in the temporal vineyard of this life and not in the eternal promises of God.

**John 11:47** Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. **IF WE LET HIM THUS ALONE, ALL MEN WILL BELIEVE ON HIM: AND THE ROMANS SHALL COME AND TAKE AWAY BOTH OUR PLACE AND NATION.**

"And . . . the chief priest . . . prophesied that **Jesus should die for that nation**. . . . Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death. **Jn. 11:47-53.**

**IN THE MIDST OF PERSECUTION, FRUIT MAY STILL BE BORNE!**

As hard as the leaders of the day tried to discredit the works of Christ, **yet there were still those among them who followed him:**

**Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him;** but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: **FOR THEY LOVED THE PRAISE OF MEN MORE THAN THE PRAISE OF GOD. John 12:42**

**This plot was not however an interruption of the plan of God. The introduction of unpleasantness often precedes the unveiling of the will of God.**

For believers - testing successfully endured opens new vistas of service that were before hidden by our un-tested immaturity.

THOSE WHO PLOTTED THE DEATH OF JESUS WERE **MEN WHO ENVIED THE SON'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE FATHER.**

**Men reject the servants of God because they are jealous of the relationship that the servant sustains with his Master! Persecution follows.**

(remember the vineyard owner from our study in **John 7:25 / Matthew 21**)

WHEN THE MOBS WHO CRIED OUT FOR THE BLOOD OF JESUS WERE OFFERED A CHANCE TO RELEASE HIM, THEY CHOOSE RATHER TO HAVE **BARABBAS** RELEASED:

**Matthew 27:17** Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? **Barabbas**, or Jesus which is called Christ?

**WHO DID THEY CHOOSE? BARABBAS! WHY? BECAUSE HE WAS ONE OF THEIR OWN!**

**John 15:19** IF 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.

**MATT. 27:18** TELLS US CLEARLY THAT HE KNEW THAT **FOR ENVY** THEY HAD DELIVERED HIM. (*“For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.”*)

**Nothing seems to rile worldly men more than for someone else to have something that they do not have.** Look at all the contraptions that are sold in this country today. Many of them have no value whatsoever. BUT, IF MR. JONES BUYS ONE, MR. SMITH WILL WANT ONE! (*Contigo coffee cups endless improvements*)

Several years ago a friend of mine had a son who was bi-polar. The son stole some of his father's checks and forged them. When the police caught up to the young man and brought him home, the dad told his son **“You can't do this again.”** The boy looked at him and said, **“Sure I will.”** Incredulous, the father said **“what do you mean?”** The son replied. **“You have money, I want money. I will have your money.”**

**Just last week - DC resident says police unhelpful after home burglarized 11 times . . . .** Taiwo has spent thousands of dollars on an alarm system, changing

locks, installing bars with padlocks and outfitting his house, both inside and outside, with surveillance cameras. He even got dogs for protection. "**They stole the dogs -- two dogs,**" says Taiwo.

He says he feels helpless and even came face-to-face with the suspects. "**One of them told me that, 'You come from Africa. You think you can have things that we haven't got? If you got stuff that we haven't got, [when] we need stuff, we're coming down here and get it.'**"

It is the old "GREENER GRASS" syndrome played out over and over again.

**Men are motivated by greed - and at the root of greed, is envy! Covetousness!** Desiring what another has - to the point of hating the one who has it!

Although many men refuse to admit it, the most important thing in life is the feeling of inner peace, satisfaction, contentment. They strive all of their life to attain these goals. **Yet they are constantly denied the sweet pleasure of these elusive qualities.** They may be successful in business, have a beautiful home, fast cars, prestige etc. Yet they remain unfulfilled.

**Along comes someone who has peace with God, and the resultant peace of God radiating from their lives.**

**THEY DID NOTHING MORE TO EARN IT THAN TO TRUST IN THE PROMISES OF GOD TO GIVE THIS PEACE TO THOSE WHO WOULD BUT ASK.**

**From within envious hearts a deep and abiding hatred wells up.**

Rather than accept by faith the Peace Of God that they could have, they vent their emotions instead by **hating** the one who has what they do not!

IT IS AN OLD SCENARIO. **Gen. 4:1ff.** TELLS US ABOUT CAIN AND ABEL.

- Able's sacrifice was acceptable, Cain's was not.
- Abel was acceptable unto God, Cain was not.
- Cain became angry! **Who was he angry with? With God!**
- **Who did he envy? His brother who was acceptable unto God.**
- How did he vent his **wrath against God? He murdered his brother!**

❖ **Men desire what others have.**

- In the case of a relationship to God, **the desire is there.**
  - ◆ But when this desire is denied, when men refuse God, **deny his rightful claim on their lives,**

- when they desire instead to find fulfillment by worldly pursuits -  
**God lets them have the desire of their hearts!**

But when they get what they wanted, they find that it does not fill the void in their lives. The cycle is repeated. Each time their heart becomes more and more calloused against God - and hence against all those who possess a right relationship to him!

**Romans 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; **Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them;** for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that **THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE:** BECAUSE, that, **when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**

**ROM. 1:28** And even as they **did not like to retain God in their knowledge, GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO A REPROBATE MIND,** to do those things which are not convenient;

**THE REASON THAT THE MOB DESIRED THE DEATH OF JESUS WAS NOT BECAUSE OF THOSE THINGS THAT HE DID OR SAID.**

**THEY COULD FIND NO TRUE FAULT WITH HIM AT ALL.**

**IN FACT, JESUS HAD CHALLENGED THEM TO NAME ANY SIN THAT HE WAS GUILTY OF, AND NO ONE COULD LIFT A VOICE!**

**John 8:45** and because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convicteth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

JESUS SPOKE THE TRUTH AND NONE COULD DENY IT. THEY DID NOT CRUCIFY HIM BECAUSE OF HIS GUILT - **THEY CRUCIFIED HIM BECAUSE THEIR WICKED HEARTS WERE AT ENMITY WITH GOD!**

**THEY HATED HIM BECAUSE THEY HATED GOD. AND THEY WERE NOT GOING TO MISS THEIR CHANCE TO GET HIM!**

JESUS WAS HATED BY THE WORLD THAT HE CAME TO SAVE, AND HE WAS **HATED WITHOUT A CAUSE!**

**John 15:25** But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, **THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.**

**Psalms. 35:19** "Let not those who are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me; neither let them wink with the eye **WHO HATE ME WITHOUT CAUSE.**"

**Ps. 69:4** "THEY THAT HATE ME WITHOUT A CAUSE are more than the hairs of mine head; they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty . . ."

**Jesus our sinless lord was hated by men, without a cause. How much more may we who identify with the name and the cause of Christ expect to be hated!**

**John. 15:20** Remember 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.

**WE ARE TO TESTIFY CONCERNING THE SINFULNESS OF THIS WORLD WE HAVE A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR FATHER WE ALSO SPEAK OF COMING DAYS OF GLORY -**

AND AS JESUS ASSURES US IN **JOHN 15:18-25**, **WE LIKEWISE WILL BE HATED BY THOSE AROUND US WHO KNOW NOT GOD!**

The easy way out of the unpleasantness of the wrath of the world is to simply keep silent about our faith! To manifest a feeling of camaraderie with those who are of the world. To **remain silent about the myriad "alternative life-styles"** that surround us, and by our silence, lend tacit approval to those who mock the laws of God. :

**Remember the believing Pharisees? John 12:42 . . . . for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.**

(Mass resignation this week of Mormons from the Mormon church because their church will not embrace the gay lifestyle. **Even those who are only masquerading as "christians" don't want the wrath of the world against them.**

**BUT YET - WE ARE TO TESTIFY CONCERNING THE SINFULNESS OF THIS WORLD**

**John 15:27** AND YE ALSO SHALL BEAR WITNESS, BECAUSE YE HAVE BEEN WITH ME FROM THE BEGINNING.

**WHAT TYPE OF WITNESS? John 15:26 -**

**But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which procedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: v. 26**

The **same witness** of Christ that the Holy Spirit of God makes to our own heart. The **conviction of sin** that comes from the convicting work of the Holy Spirit as he reveals to us the absolute righteous standard of God's holiness and our need for a Savior to provide this holiness!

The **same witness** OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP THAT BELONGS TO EACH CHILD OF GOD,

The **same witness** OF THE **COMING GLORY** THAT IS THE INHERITANCE OF EACH CHILD OF GOD!

IN SHORT - **The same witness** OF THE SAVING GRACE OF GOD & THE JOYS OF SALVATION!

WE HAVE A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR FATHER.

- ❖ AND BECAUSE OF THIS - THE **WORLD** WILL HATE US –
- ❖ JUST AS **CAIN** HATED ABLE
- ❖ AND THE **11 BROTHERS** OF JOSEPH HATED HIM
- ❖ AND THE **RELIGIOUS LEADERS** OF CHRIST'S DAY HATED HIM!

**"THE SERVANT IS NOT GREATER THAN HIS LORD."**

WE ALSO SPEAK OF COMING DAYS OF GLORY - THE GOALS OF THOSE OF THIS WORLD AND THE GOALS OF THOSE WHO ARE NOT OF THIS WORLD (**Jn. 15:19**) ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE GOALS. WE SEEK NOT A CITY MADE WITH HANDS! If 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.

WE ARE AS ABRAHAM: **WHO** looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. **Hebrews 11:10**

**THE WORLD CAN NOT STAND THIS! AND BECAUSE OF THIS THEY HATE US!**

**BUT WE HAVE A REFUGE IN JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD - AND IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS BODY - THE CHURCH!**

## **DC resident says police unhelpful after home burglarized 11 times**

A Southeast D.C. homeowner has reached out to FOX 5 after his home was burglarized 11 times over the past three years. FOX 5's Marina Marraco has more on his story.**Posted:**Nov 17 2015 10:05PM EST **Updated:**Nov 17 2015 11:20PM EST WASHINGTON –

A Southeast D.C. man is pleading for help after he says **D.C. police have ignored eleven different burglaries at his home. He has given the police surveillance video from his home, and yet, no arrests have been made.** "I just changed the lock," said Kehinde Taiwo. "We have this and padlocks on all the windows."**DC resident says police unhelpful after home burglarized 11 times**Taiwo says he and his family are prisoners in their own home. For the past three years, he says three men seen on his surveillance video have been terrorizing his family and breaking into their home -- getting away with close to \$40,000 worth in electronics, jewelry and cash. "Three years ago, they came four times," he tells us. "Last year, they came four times. This year, they already came three times."He says each time he has called the police, "They give me a police report and they disappear."Taiwo says the same men broke in yet again last week. So he went through motions, showed up at the Seventh District police station and asked for explanations. "They are not doing their job," he says. But he says officers told him there were no records of any prior break-ins at his home. Taiwo has spent thousands of dollars on an alarm system, changing locks, installing bars with padlocks and outfitting his house, both inside and outside, with surveillance cameras. He even got dogs for protection. **"They stole the dogs -- two dogs,"** says Taiwo. **He says he feels helpless and even came face-to-face with the suspects. "One of them told me that, 'You come from Africa. You think you can have things that we haven't got? If you got stuff that we haven't got, [when] we need stuff, we're coming down here and get it."** We have blurred out the faces of the alleged thieves from the surveillance video because they have not been arrested. Taiwo is pleading for an arrest or he will have no other choice than to finally take matters into his own hands. "Booby trap the house or I'll be sitting with a shotgun on my lap and they'll come in one day thinking that there's nobody home," he says. "I can move from here, but based on principle, I decided not to until the people doing this are arrested and brought to book. Then I can move."Earlier this year, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser unveiled a rebate program for 2016 that would help residents and businesses pay for surveillance cameras in order to help police make arrests. This homeowner says he has taken on that expense himself in hopes it would lead to an arrest sooner rather than later, but still, nothing has happened. We notified D.C. police of our story and have provided them case numbers from Taiwo. D.C. police spokesperson Lt. Sean Conboy sent FOX 5 a statement saying: "Since this issue has been brought to our attention, a review of the cases was conducted by one of our detective supervisors. We have identified one case where policy was not followed. Detectives are working to further the investigations."

## Stung by Edict on Gays, Mormons Leave Church

By [THE EDITORIAL BOARD](#) NOV. 19, 2015

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints did not seem eager to draw attention to its [recently updated guidance on gay marriage](#). In a memo shared confidentially, the church instructed leaders that Mormons in same-sex relationships were to be treated as “apostates.” Children being raised by two moms or two dads, the edict held, should be banished from the church until they become adults and can renounce their parent’s union.

The response of hundreds of members of the church was powerful. In recent days, [Mormons have been leaving the church in droves](#), **saying they no longer feel at home in an institution that so resolutely excludes a segment of the population that has become increasingly visible, legally protected and socially accepted in America.**

Religious organizations are entitled to set doctrine. Mormon leaders view heterosexual marriage as vital to eternal salvation. But those that continue to label [sex between people of the same gender a sin](#), and perpetuate harmful stereotypes, **should expect a reaction from their congregations.**

Over the past decade, the Mormon Church has used its social power and its treasury to inject itself into the political fight over gay rights. The church bankrolled California’s Proposition 8, an initiative that sought to invalidate the 2008 court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage in the state. Voters narrowly approved the proposition, a setback that galvanized supporters of gay marriage and shaped the legal and advocacy strategy that led the Supreme Court to legalize gay marriage this summer.

After [Proposition 8 was ruled unconstitutional in 2010](#), the Mormon Church largely faded from the political debate over gay marriage. Earlier this year, the church appeared to take a progressive step on sexual orientation and gender identity equality by backing [a statewide anti-discrimination bill](#).

That evolution makes its recent guidance particularly jarring. The exclusion of children, in particular, has stoked painful soul-searching among devout and non-practicing Mormons, including many who had faded away from the church, but were content to remain on its rosters. **Kate Kendell, [a gay rights activist who was raised Mormon](#), wrote that she never expected to formally cut ties with the church until she learned of the new guidance.**

“It was the gratuitously cruel and stigmatizing treatment of children that pushed me to disavow the church of my childhood,” she wrote in [a statement published by Religion News Service](#). “It is impossible for me to be a part of a religion that would attack its own members and punish them by denying their children involvement in the church.”

**Ms. Kendell, her wife and their three children have no shortage of options when it comes to places of worship. A growing number of churches of various denominations have come to embrace all people.**

*A version of this editorial appears in print on November 19, 2015, on page A30 of the New York edition with the headline: Stung by Gay Edict, Mormons Leave Church. [Today's Paper/Subscribe](#)*

\*\*\* From article in Evernote: *ISIS Is Islamic and Bruce Jenner is a Man.* Erik Erickson

As Joel Miller pointed out, where **Christianity is a relational religion, Islam is a religion of inherent violence.** In Christianity, God is relational with relations within the trinity, with the heavenly host, and with Adam and Eve. In Islam, the eternal Allah is isolated without relations. He creates man not as adopted sons, but as objects to submit to him.

**God shows grace, Allah shows mercy. “Grace is what we receive that we do not deserve while mercy is what we do not get that we do deserve.”**

**Islam means submission** — the peace comes through submission. **There is not a communion with God because God’s will cannot truly be known.** Through jihad, which ISIS interprets as an outward struggle against God’s enemies, ISIS’s fighters try to exercise the will of God and gain favorable entrance into eternity.

In Christianity, the son of God walked among the people and died for their sins. In Islam, God has a prophet for speaks for him, but is not him. The testament of Christ lives forever. The prophet’s voice is echoed and interpreted by factions. One is God, the other is just a prophet.