**No Cloke for their Sin**

***John 15:22*** *If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.*

What is the sin that Jesus is talking about here? In the context where the scripture was taken from, Jesus is saying that He was persecuted for His name’s sake. The religious leaders of the day questioned Jesus’ right to say that he was one with his father. In **John 10:30** Jesus says that He and His father were one. The Pharisees picked up stones to stone him. Jesus said that even though they didn’t believe it because He said it, the works that He did would prove that He was in fact one with His father.

***John 10:37*** *If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.*

***38*** *But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.*

Jesus reiterates this in **John 15**. He had clearly demonstrated through the works that he had done that He and His Father are one, yet they did not believe him.

***John 15:23*** *He that hateth me hateth my Father also.*

***John 15:24*** *If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.*

**John 16:8-9** says that sin is really not believing Jesus.

***John 16:8*** *And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

***9*** *Of sin, because they believe not on me;*

Because Jesus had demonstrated to them that he was who he said he was, they had no cloke-or excuse-for not believing that He was who He said he was-or did they? **John 16:8** tells us that it is the Holy Spirit that reproves or enlightens us to this fact. Without the revelation power of the Holy Spirit, men can’t understand these things.

***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.*

Although it looks like they have been confronted with all the evidence that they need in order to believe, the next verse sheds some new light on that concept.

***John 15:26*** *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

No one can understand true spiritual things without a revelation from the Holy Spirit.

***1 Corinthians 2:14*** *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

As men, we look upon that people that don’t seem to believe even though we think that they have been presented with enough evidence to believe and we begin to pass judgment upon them. Jesus says in John 15 that unless the branch is abiding in the vine, it will wither and die. Man’s response is to cast those worthless branches into the fire so that they can be disposed of.

***John 15:5*** *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

***6*** *If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned* ***[consumed]****.*

But, what is God’s response to man’s unbelief? He knows that the branch can’t bear fruit without His intervention.

***John 15:4*** *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

He is the husbandman or caretaker. He takes away ***[Strong’s lift up, expiate]*** every branch that does not bear fruit, and he purges ***[cleans, expiate]*** every one that is bearing fruit so that it can bear more. The word expiate means to make atonement for. Jesus made a way through the cross to lift every one up.

***John 15:1*** *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

***2*** *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

***3*** *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

It is only through the power of the “Spirit revealed” word that he speaks to any of us that that we can come to a true understanding of Spiritual things. God’s desire is to set men free. We look at the Pharisees and have a hard time believing that God would want to set them free after all of the trouble that they caused. The word says that they are of their father the devil. **John 8:44** They have been blinded with erroneous thinking and they are leading others down its path. **Matthew 23:15**

**Isaiah 29** talks about the Jews and their misconceptions based on the lies of the enemy. But the chapter concludes with a very encouraging word.

***Isaiah 29:22*** *Therefore thus saith the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob, Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale.*

***23*** *But when he seeth his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel.*

***24*** *They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.*

“They that erred in spirit shall come to understanding.” It is only as the Holy Spirit “writes God’s Words” upon our hearts that any of us can come to a true understanding of God’s Word. His “Spirit revealed Word” is powerful. It alone opens “blind eyes” **2 Corinthians 3:14-18** and sets us free.

The Pharisees had “no cloke for their sin” according to the law. They had a natural encounter with Jesus, but that was not enough. The old covenant is based on men’s ability to respond and do from the outside in, while the new covenant is based on God’s ability to initiate a response from the inside out!

How much more powerful would our walk with God be if we shifted the focus of our thinking from the ability of men to respond to God’s Word that never fails to cause men to respond! **Isaiah 55:9-13**

Using the Apostle Paul as an example. He was a “Pharisee of Pharisees” until he had a “spiritual” encounter with God, and then He was never the same again.