



Collusion or Collision: Collision Characters P1
From sermon 5.23.21

Read *John 15:18-23*

Review from Sunday's sermon: Jesus clearly taught that the world (and compromised Church) would treat committed, faithful followers the same way it treated Him. We should not be surprised, but prepared. The world and the enemy hate the light (Truth), so they will tirelessly work to extinguish it. The closer we get to the end, the more the culture will ramp up the attack on the true Jesus, the Word of God, and the Church that proclaims both. We can take comfort and strength in others who faced the same in history.

1. Review the following examples from Sunday. Discuss those things/elements that stand out to you.

<u>Character</u>	<u>Message</u>	<u>Collision</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Jeremiah	The house of God was corrupt. Truth was gone.	<u>Silence</u> Jeremiah	trial, prison, pit, exile
John the Baptist	Religion is dead. Herod's lifestyle was a sin.	Remove John	<u>prison, martyrdom</u>
Paul	Jews rejected only Messiah. Jesus is God. God's wrath coming	<u>Kill Paul</u>	prison, beatings, death

2. Now, consider each character's message and plight. How does each relate to the Church/Christians today?

- Jeremiah—We are trying to sound the alarm that Church no longer resembles Christ's design, but instead resembles the world. God will reject the false church and it will be left behind. Churches preaching repent and return to the Word are mocked, dismissed, and labeled.
- John—Like John, we are to keep the biblical/God's definition of sin. God is not relative; He does not change with the times. In doing so, we will collide with the culture and leaders.
- Paul—We must double down on presenting and insisting on the exclusivity and divinity of Jesus Christ. All other beliefs/practices are false religions and lies. The Church must police and purify itself before Judgment comes.

3. Read *Isaiah 30:1 & 9-11*. Discuss how this passage, and our collision character's culture reflect the church culture of today.

Liberal Church: "Stop calling these beautiful/alternative lifestyles sin. Church membership is open to anyone, regardless of "holiness". The only sin is intolerance. Paul is wrong and evil. Anyone can be an elder/pastor."

Charismatic Church: "The power rests with you. Speak victory and victory will come. A great revival/awakening/victory is coming. Follow those with signs and wonders...they are from God."

Pragmatic Church: "Maybe those doctrines are true...maybe not. But, doctrine and expository preaching does not draw a crowd. Be positive. Don't preach judgment or repentance, but find helpful topics and common ground."

4. In pointing out these errors and calling for truth, were these characters and the faithful Church today trying to divisive, confrontational, controversial, or agitative? No. We are to be patient and peaceful. However, the Truth of the Word and of Christ are all those things on their own. See also *Hebrews 4:12*