

THAT YOU MAY KNOW

The Greatest Hate
John 15:18-25
March 12, 2023

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. - John 15:18

I. THE HATRED OF THE WORLD

- The world hates Jesus. By extension, the world hates his followers (Vss. 18-19; John 16:2-3).
- Recall that for John, “the world” refers not so much to how big our planet is, but to how bad its people are (John 3:16).
- Jesus shares four things concerning the opposition from the world the disciples will face:
 1. It is inevitable (Matt. 10:23, 24:9-13, 2 Tim. 3:12).
 2. It is due to their association with Jesus (Matt. 24:9; Rev. 2:13).
 3. It is due to the world’s ignorance (Vs. 21; 2 Thess. 1:18).
 4. It wells up from hatred of the Father and the Son (Vs. 23).

II. BE ON GUARD

- Jesus is hated without cause. Not the Jesus of people’s fantasies, but the real Jesus revealed in Scripture (Vs. 25).
- Jesus shined light into the world and did things no one has ever done. For it, he was roundly rejected (John 1:9-11, 3:18-20, 15:22-24).
- No Christian who is persecuted for the faith can ever say that they were not warned (Matt. 5:11-12, 24:9; John 15:18).
- Life for many Christians will be difficult. It will likely become more difficult. We must be ready, Jesus has warned us ahead of time (Mark 13:9-13, 23; John 16:4).

KNOW: The world loves a Jesus made in their own image, but hates the Jesus of Scripture. By extension, the world hates Jesus’ followers too, but believers have been chosen by Jesus out of the world.

DO: Stand fast with your brother Jesus. Accept whatever comes your way due to your allegiance to his name.

Suggested Reading:

Keep a Quiet Heart by Elisabeth Elliot (Available in the LifePoint Library)

For Children and Youth:

Christian Heroes Then and Now Series (Available in the LifePoint Library)

-Corrie Ten Boom: Keeper of the Angels’ Den

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read John 15:18-25

1. Why does the “world” hate Jesus?
2. How are followers of Jesus different than those who do not follow him? Does Jesus view them differently as well?
3. This passage has a negative slant to it. What do you see that is positive (e.g. see verse 20 in particular)?
4. Who, in particular, would not be guilty of sin if Jesus had not come to them? Does this mean that everyone who has not heard from Jesus directly is saved?
5. What should followers of Christ take from Jesus’ words recorded here?
6. How has this passage challenged you? What will you take from it as a point (or points) of application?