

Lesson 44 John 15:9-17 God's Love and the World's Hatred

Pray: Before you begin lift your heart to God and ask for the Spirit's help as you read the passage and work through these questions in His divine presence and you certainly will be given understanding.

Background

Friendship - The main ideals of friendship in ancient literature included loyalty(sometimes to the death), equality, mutual sharing of possessions, and an intimacy in which a friend could share everything in confidence.

Read John 15: 9-17

1. In 15:9 what does Jesus command the disciples?
2. In vv. 9 and 10 how does Jesus tell them they can carry out this command and how did He serve as an example for them?
3. In 15:11 what does Jesus say will be the result of carrying out this command?

Application: Jesus gave these specific instructions to His disciples knowing that they were soon to experience many trials and hardships. How can these instructions also benefit us as we experience the various trials and hardships we go through?

Application: Share a time you experienced a trial in your life and you were able to "abide" in God's love and feel His joy.

4. In 15:12 Jesus commands His disciples to "love one another" as He had loved them. How did He describe the kind of love He meant and how was He an example of that kind of love? (15:13)

Application: What does it mean personally to you to love a brother or sister in Christ in this way. Can you share a time God called you to do that or a time someone did that for you?

5. Jesus further explains the kind of relationship they are going to have with him in John 15:14-16. What can you learn in these verses about Jesus' relationship with His disciples?

Application: What stands out to you in 15:14-16 and how can you apply it to your own walk with the Lord?

Read John 15:18-27

6. How does the "world" feel about Jesus and His followers and what does the world do to them as a result of how they feel about them? 15:18-20

7. Why do they act the way they do against Jesus and His followers? 15:21

Application: Can you share a time you experienced persecution as a result of being a Christian?

8. What comfort, insight and direction does Jesus give them in verses 15:22-27?