John 15:17-16:4

Reeder

7/13/25

Good morning Faith Church West

We will be continuing in the book of John this morning on page \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Context

What we have seen in John so far: Union with Christ

This is primarily to the 11 disciples but we can find endless application here

R – John 15:17-16:4

**15V.17**

E – This is a transition statement. It contrasts the love we have seen with the hate to come.

**15V.18**

E – Defining “the world”/”kosmos”

* The context is always key, especially in John
  + Option 1 – Creation or the created world – John 1:10
  + Option 2 – All of the people in the world/humanity – John 3:16
  + Option 3 – The world system that is opposed to God – this passage

Q – What does it mean for there to be a world system that is opposed to God?

* Warren Weirsbe says it well…

…when you listen to the radio news, you may hear the announcer say, “And now the news from the world of sports!” Obviously, “the world of sports” is not a special country or planet where everybody lives who is connected in some way with sports. “The world of sports” refers to all the organizations, people, plans, activities, philosophies, etc. that are a part of sports. Some of these things are visible and some are invisible, but all of them are organized around one thing—sports.

“The world” from a Christian point of view involves all the people, plans, organizations, activities, philosophies, values, etc. that belong to society without God. Some of these things may be very cultural; others may be very corrupt; but all of them have their origins in the heart and mind of sinful man and promote what sinful man wants to enjoy and accomplish.

I – John writes this in his epistle 1 John which I think helps clarify what he means when he uses the word world in this way.

1 John 2:15–17

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

E – And so we understand here that this worldly system that is opposed to Christ and that hated Christ will now hate His followers.

**15V.19**

E – One of the reasons that the world hates Christians so much is that we were once a part of the world but now God has called Christians out of this worldly system.

E – One of the main tenants of Christianity is having new life in Christ.

* That means that Christians have a spiritual life and relationship with God that they did not have before, but it also means that a person’s identity is transferred from one kingdom to another.

E – Paul writes it this way in the book of Colossians

Colossians 1:13–14

13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

E – And so, the world hates followers of Christ because they are no longer associated, joined to, or united to this worldly system.

Q – What does it mean that the world loves what is its own? Isn’t the world about people just devouring each other?

I – US – Soviet Illustration – fought together against one enemy when they would normally fight?

**15V.20**

Q - “Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ Do you remember where he said that?

* He said it back in John 13:16
* After displaying humility through washing the disciples feet, Jesus explains that they should act the same because He their master has acted that way.
* In essence, “If the master has displayed this kind of servitude, his servants should follow suit and do the same.”

E – And here he takes that same phrase and turns it so that they will understand what is going to proceed from being a slave of Christ.

E – He gives two options for what people are going to do.

1. There are going to be people that persecute the disciples because they are the disciples of Jesus
2. There are going to be people that follow the disciple’s teachings because they followed Jesus’s teachings.

E – The disciple’s ministry will mirror the ministry of their Master, Jesus.

**15V.21**

E – And Jesus makes it crystal clear that if the disciples are persecuted for Jesus’s sake, it is because those persecuting them do not know God the father, the One who sent Jesus.

**15V.22-24**

Q – Now the following statement here in verse 22 can be confusing but let me explain.

* Jesus says that these people would “not have sin” if Jesus had not come and spoken to them.
* Well, this doesn’t mean that these people were sinless and walking in righteousness with God before Jesus came.
* What is does mean is that there is a higher level of accountability for those who have heard the words of Jesus and then refuse the message that He has given them.

E – Jesus is connecting the logic that because they have rejected Him, they have also rejected God the Father

**15V.25**

E – And this is part of God’s redemptive plan. It was prophesied beforehand in the OT that they will hate Jesus without cause.

E – The disciples should not be shocked when any of this happens, and they should be expecting to see this kind of persecution.

**15V.26-27**

E – And Jesus goes back to explaining the benefits of the Spirit’s arrival that will happen after His departure.

E – The Apostles will be able to testify about Christ because the Holy Spirit will be testifying through them in their ministry.

E – “Beginning” is the beginning of Jesus’s ministry

**16V.1**

E – The Lord wants His disciples to be aware of the eminent threat that is coming their way so that they will not stumble in their faith.

**16V.2-3**

E – He begins to get vivid and graphic about what is about to happen.

E – People will be killing you and they are going to believe they are pleasing to God while they do it.

E – And all of this is because they do not know God the Father or His Son.

**16V.4**

E – This is one of the necessary last lessons of Christ to His disciples

I – Parent teaching their children specific lessons before they leave the home.

* Some lessons don’t need to be taught while the teacher is present.

**3 reasons why Christians can find comfort in Christ when facing persecution**

**I. Our Identity Is in Christ, Not in This World (15:17-25)**

A. We are not of this world

B. The world persecuted our Master first

C. The world does not know God

E – The dichotomy between the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness

E – Choosing peace with God will lead to division with the world

““Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division; for from now on five members in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three. “They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”” (Luke 12:51–53, NASB95)

**II. God Is With Us Even When We Are Hated for Christ’s Sake (15:26-27)**

The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD’S throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, And the one who loves violence His soul hates. Upon the wicked He will rain snares; Fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup. For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face.” (Psalm 11, NASB95)

E – The primary role of the Holy Spirit to this world is to testify about Christ

I – John Paton story

**III. The Persecution Is Not Over (16:1-4)**

A. He accompanied previous saints

E – The apostles as examples

E – Other saints through time as examples

A – Read a good biography about a faithful Christian

B.He provides for His children so they will not stumble