



February 7, 2016 | John 15:18 - 16:4

Discuss: Have you ever experienced hostility because of following Jesus? Please explain.

This part of John (13–21) zeroes in on Jesus' final few days leading to His death and resurrection. Jesus prepares His disciples for the time to come after He leaves and the persecution they will surely face.

Read John 15:18 - 16:2.

Why will the world hate me?

In this passage, Jesus is talking about hatred and He uses the word seven times. It seems incredible that anyone would hate Jesus Christ and His people, but that is exactly what the situation is today.

The *world* (v.18) in this context involves all the people, plans, organizations, activities, philosophies, values, etc., that belong to society without God.

[Q] Why does the world system hate those who believe in Jesus Christ and seek to follow Him? What reasons does Jesus give in verses 19-22?

[Q] What does it mean to no longer belong to this world (John 15:19)? Read the following verses for help and discuss what each might look like in your daily life:

- Romans 12:2
- 1 John 2:15-17
- Matthew 6:31-33

How can hate like Jesus?

[Q] From the following passages, what are some things that God hates?

Psalm 45:7

Jeremiah 44:2-4

Zechariah 8:17

Until we hate sin like God does, we will always be in danger of loving sin. —Pastor Jay Abramson

The first step to real gospel joy is real gospel brokenness. We cannot get to real happiness in God until we get to real despair of our sin. "Til sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet," Thomas Watson tells us. —Jared Wilson, Midwestern Seminary

[Q] How can focusing on what Jesus did on the cross for you, help you to hate sin like God does?

[Q] If you hate sin like God does, how might that affect people around you who love sin? Read 1 Peter 4:1–5.

[Q] Apply: What sin in your own life do you need to hate? How will you get God's view on it?

How can I love like Jesus?

Read Matthew 5:43-48 in The Message paraphrase:

⁴³ "You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, ⁴⁵ for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. ⁴⁶ If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. ⁴⁷ If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that. ⁴⁸ "In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.

[Q] How can focusing on what Jesus did on the cross for you, empower you to love like this?

[Q] Apply: For whom do you need the power of Christ in order to love?

Pray

Next week: John 15:1-6