

Study #42
Why the World Hates Christians
John 15:18 - 16: 4

John's Purpose Statement:

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Observation Questions

1. The Hatred of the World - verses 18 & 19

Read John 15:18-19 : 18 If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.
19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Jesus is speaking to the _____.

Who does the world hate? Who does the world love?

Why would the world hate the disciples?

Why are the disciples "not of the world"?

2. The Master and the Servant - Verses 20-22

Read verses 20-22 and John 13:16

20 Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. 21 But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.

In verse 20, Jesus reminded His disciple of a statement He had made earlier.

John 13 : 14-16 - 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

In John 13:14-16, where are Jesus and the disciples? What is the occasion? What is Jesus doing ?

In today's passage, John 15: 20-22, what is Jesus talking about?

Why will the world do that?

Does the world have an excuse for sin? Why?

Sin Exposes - verses 23-25

23 Whoever hates me hates my Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father.

25 But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

If the world hates _____, then it also hates the _____.

If Jesus had not done _____, the world would not be _____ of _____.

So, because the world had seen the _____ they are guilty of _____.

Why did Jesus in verse John 15:25 quote these two Psalms?

Psalms 35:19-Let not those rejoice over me who are wrongfully my foes, and let not those wink the eye who hate me without cause.

64:9 More in number than the hairs of my head, are those who hate me without cause; mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies.

What I did not steal must I now restore?

4. The Promise of the Spirit - verses 26 - 27

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

Who will Jesus send?

What will he do?

What will that allow the disciples to do, and why?

5. The Consequences of Hatred-verses 16:1-4

I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. 2 They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. 3 And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. 4 But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

Why is Jesus telling the disciples about the hatred of the world? What does that mean?

What are two consequences of the world's hatred?

What would it mean to a Jew to be "put out of the synagogues"?

What "time" is coming?

Why didn't Jesus tell them of the coming hatred before?

Teaching Notes

What to Expect from the World

The World's Hatred Shown

The Holy Spirit's Witness

Jesus' Words to Overcome Hatred

Going Deeper - Discussion Questions

1. What are some characteristics of the world? In what ways are you different from the world? How are you tempted by the world?

2. Because the Scriptures tell us that the world hates believers, are you tempted to retreat from the world? What are some ways we can do that?

3. How are you striving to live for Christ in front of the world? This could be friends, family or the world around us. Do you ever feel hated or persecuted because of it?

4. Do you have any questions about the lesson today, or the Gospel in general, that you would like to ask your table partners?