

WHEN THE WORLD HATES YOU

INTRODUCTION

John 12-20 describes the last week of Jesus' life. Even though these chapters comprise almost half of John's Gospel, they record the events that take place over the course of a few days. Therefore, a big portion of the material in them is devoted to the subject of Jesus' death and the things that transpired leading up to it. John 15 gives us one of those episodes when it tells us how Jesus spoke to His followers about what they could expect to encounter once He leaves them: persecution. The world will not embrace them. On the contrary, it will reject them which is what we are going to talk about this morning by looking at "4 Characteristics of the Disciple's Upcoming Persecution in this Passage."

1). It will be Hateful (verses 18-20).

Verses 18-20 says, *"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.'"*

Discussion Question A: What does the expression "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before" mean?

Discussion Question B: How did the world hate Jesus and how would that spill over to the disciples after He was gone? How does it spill over to Jesus's disciples today?

2). It won't be Forgotten (verses 21-25).

Verses 21-22 says, *"But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin."*

Discussion Question A: Jesus mentions that the people rejected Him because they did not know God. Can you think of a modern-day example of this?

Discussion Question B: What will God's final response be to that on Judgment Day and how does it give us hope?

3). It won't be Lonely (verses 26-27).

Verses 26-27 says, *“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father; that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”*

Discussion Question A: The sermon mentioned several characteristics of the Holy Spirit that are given in verses 26-27. What are they and what do they have to do with the issue of persecution?

Discussion Question B: Should these characteristics of the Spirit's ministry be an encouragement for us today as well? Why / why not?

4). It will Come from the Jews (16:1-4).

16:1-3 says, *“These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me.”*

Discussion Question A: Why did Jesus bring up the issue of the synagogue here in this passage? What role did the synagogue play in the life of Israel?

Discussion Question B: What role would the synagogue play in the disciple's upcoming persecution and how would this have made it even more painful for them?