

The ONE Who Gives Us Power To Withstand: Jesus Teaches About The Hatred Of The World

John 15:18 – 16:15

Introduction:

Up to this point Christ's time with the disciples has been dominated by love. John started with an expression, "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to perfection." The disciples must be feeling incredibly appreciated and assured. Suddenly, the setting shifts dramatically as the Lord turns the subject from love to hate. In sharp, painful contrast of abiding in Christ and his love is the hatred of the world, which they will experience in the days ahead. Such hatred will be real and powerful.

The cross will be the supreme expression of the world's hatred. Christians will also be hated by the world with the same degree of hate because being disciples of Jesus means we no longer belong to the world.

How does a Christian prepare for such hatred? How can a Christian withstand?

Outline:

I. Jesus Prepares The Disciples For The Worse: The Hatred Of The World (vv. 18-25)

1. The world hates the disciples because it hated Christ first (vv. 18; 23-25)
2. Jesus chose his disciples out of the world, therefore the world hates them (v. 19)
3. Christians are not exempted from persecution as Jesus reminded (vv. 20-22; 16:2-3)
4. Jesus' warning is to prepare them and to keep them from stumbling (16:1, 4)

II. Jesus Promises The Disciples Power To Withstand: The Helper Will Come (15:26-27; 16:5-7)

1. The Holy Spirit is the Divine Helper sent by Jesus from the Father (15:26)
2. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth (15:26-27)
3. The coming of the Holy Spirit is subsequent on the departure of Jesus (16:5-7)

III. Jesus Proclaims The Divine Works The Holy Spirit Will Do (15:26; 16:8-15)

1. He will walk alongside Christians and bear witness about Jesus (15:26-27; 16:7)
2. He will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment (16:8-11)
3. He will guide and teach the disciples into all truth (16:13)
4. He will continue to glorify and reveal Jesus to believers (16:14-15)

Final Thoughts:

Many Christians still struggle with the sin of hatred. Too often we kowtow to the system of the world and before long we lose our effectiveness as a Christian witness. We are in the world but we are not of the world. Our life as a Christian must deliver a clear message that we belong to Christ. Are you hated by the world for the right reason? Hated because you are different? Hated because you will not compromise your moral conviction? Hated because you honor God in the way you live your life?

God did not promise us that we will be spared of persecution and the pain inflicted by hatred the world hurled against us. But He promises us a Helper who would walk alongside us, who would grant us divine power to withstand no matter how difficult. As Christians we are recipients of both God's love because we belong to Him, and recipients of the hatred of the world because the world loves its own and hates God and those who belong to him. Jesus says, be of good cheer for "I have overcome the world!" Christ's victory makes us overcomers!