

John 15:18-16:6

They Hated Jesus, Don't Expect the Big, Bad World to Love You!

(pt. 3)

INTRO: They *hate me*, the unblemished Lamb of God, do not expect the lost world to *love you!*

(*John 15:18f*; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 4:12)

Series Outline

I) A Biblical Theology of Hatred and Persecution (*see sermons from 12/11/22 and 12/18/22*)

II) A Historical Overview of Hatred and Persecution against God's People

III) Jesus' Prophetic Words Concerning Hatred and Christian Persecution

1) **A Macro Historical Overview of *Old Testament* Persecution against God's People.**

(*Hebrews 11*; Genesis -Malachi)

2) **A Micro Historical Overview of *New Testament* Persecution against God's People.**

(*Acts 2-8*, 1 Peter; Hebrews 12:1-3; Revelation 2-3)

2) A Micro Historical Overview of *New Testament* Persecution against God's People.

(note the progression of persecution listed in Acts 2f)

Closing Words of Encouragement & Comfort

For Further Reflection/Application: *Lord help us to be effectually doers of the Word!*

What biblical doctrines/Scriptural truths does this generation of American unbelievers loathe the most?

Like a master artist, Jesus powerfully contrasts Love and Friendship *with* Hatred and Persecution! Jesus calls His disciples to treat one another as family (note John 15:12-17; 13:34-35). In view of John 15:18-16:6, why is it essential for God's people to love one another in a Christ-like manner?

What are some examples of O.T. saints who were "persecuted for righteousness sake" and/or "hated without cause?" After listening to the sermon today, reread Hebrews 11:1-12:4 this week.

What are some examples of N.T. saints/churches that endured hostility and persecution? The book of Acts is an historical account of how the church expanded from Jerusalem to Rome in 3 decades. How often do you encounter Christian persecution in the book of Acts? What are some different ways the big, bad world persecutes Christians? Note the "progression of persecution" mentioned in today's sermon.

What are some contemporary examples of Christians who suffered because of their biblical values/witness? How have you been mocked/ridiculed/marginalized/attacked because of your Christian faith/values/etc.? When are you tempted to compromise the biblical message or just go with the flow in order to "save face" and/or lessen the chance of being persecuted?

Why shouldn't we be shocked when unrepentant unbelievers target us? (note John 15:18-16:6; 1 Peter 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:12; John 3:19-21)? Why do they hate us? Review your notes from previous sermons, pt. 1 and pt. 2. (a Biblical Theology of Sinful Hatred and Christian Persecution).

Have you ever read any accounts of Christian persecution in "*Foxe's Book of Martyrs*?" What stories impacted you the most? Read 15-20 pages of this classic church history book this week. You can find free versions of this book online. You can also find a few copies in our church library.

Other accounts of modern-day persecution can be found in the book, "*Jesus Freaks: Stories of Those Who Stood for Jesus, the Ultimate Jesus Freaks*." Pastor also encouraged us to frequent Open Door's website- <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/> and the *Voice of the Martyrs* website- www.persecution.com

The video that was played at the beginning of today's worship service provides a brief summary of Christian persecution over the past 2000 years. "History of Christian Persecution_ YouTube video- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NF2Xr7HPJ54>

A friend of King Jesus' is a friend of mine! Do your actions and words demonstrate that you view your brothers and sisters in Christ as friends and family in the manner you treat them? What are some ways you've experienced Christ-like love here at Lake Country Bible Church. What are some practical ways you can "love one another" (John 15:12-13, 17)? How can prayer be an expression of love? How can ministry service be an expression of love? How can sacrificial giving be an expression of love? How can you show Christ-like love to church family during happy times; (such as engagements/weddings/the birth of children)? How can you show Christ-like love to church family during hard times; (such as funerals; surgeries/cancer treatments; Christian persecution; etc)? Attending someone's wedding from church is a simple way to flesh out John 15:12-13. Rarely are believers asked to sacrifice their life for a Christian friend (John 15:13); but we are given many opportunities to die to self in loving service to one another.

Be encouraged and persevere in the Lord's strength! Note Matthew 5:10-12; 1 Peter 4:7-19; 5:8-12.

Related Songs: *Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken. How Firm a Foundation. A Mighty Fortress is our God. Sovereign Grace Music- How Long, O Lord. Come For Us. How Long, O Lord, How Long (Psalm 13). When We See Your Face. Gettys- He Will Hold Me Fast.*

If you want to understand better how things in the West came to be the way they are I'd encourage you to get Carl Trueman's book, *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution*

REVIEW OF JOHN 15:12-17 SERMON SERIES

Jesus' sermon on Love and Friendship in verses 12-17 highlights 3 Great Truths

1) The Savior's *sacrificial* love is the model for His friend's *mutual* love.

(*John 15:12-14*; Rom. 5:6-8; Col. 3:12-14; Eph. 4:32)

2) Jesus' Friends are Granted VIP access (insider information) concerning the Master's Affairs.

(*John 15:15*; 16:12; Matt. 11:25-27)

3) The Sovereign King Handpicks His Friends and Calls Each of Us to Love & Good Deeds.

(*John 15:16*; 6:63-70a; Eph. 1-2)

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