

152. The Gospel of John—15:18-25

Hated Without a Cause-Part 1

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As we have said numerous times in our study of John's Gospel—Chapters 13 through 16 constitute Jesus' final words to His disciples before His crucifixion. In that regard, the Lord is revisiting and reminding them of the most important things He shared with them over the course of His 3-½ year ministry.

One of the verses we focused on the last couple of weeks was verse 16—

John 15:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that your fruit should remain...*

We ended last week with this verse by saying that—even as the Lord chose us for salvation—He also appointed us for special service, that we should bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.

Now understand, just because the Father chose you, and Jesus saved you, and the Holy Spirit wants to use you—that doesn't mean that if you serve God the world is going to applaud you!

John 15:18-25 (NKJV)

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 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 keep yours also. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. ²⁵ But *this happened* that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, '*They hated Me without a cause.*'

REFLECTION: What does Jesus mean when he says you "should go and bear fruit..."?

REFLECTION: How is it possible to have the Father chose you, Jesus save you and the Holy Spirit what to use you yet the world not going to applaud you?

This section deals with the hatred and antagonism of the world toward Jesus and His disciples.

As we just said, we are still in the section that runs from Chapter 13 through 16 which makes up Jesus' farewell address to His disciples. He used most of this farewell discourse to comfort them because their hearts were deeply troubled by the revelations He had given them earlier in the evening while they were still in the upper room (John 13:21-38).

Then starting in Chapter 14 He gave them a series of promises meant to comfort their troubled hearts:

1. *He was going away to prepare a place for them and that He would come back to take them to that place.*
2. *They would do greater works than He had done because He was going back to His Father.*
3. *They could ask the Father anything in His name for the work of the Kingdom and He would make sure they received it.*
4. *Once He returned to the Father, He promised to send back another Helper (the Holy Spirit) who would abide with them forever.*
5. *That they would be given resurrection life and power to do the work He was commissioning them to do in His name.*
6. *They would be given divine knowledge to understand all He had taught them while He was with them.*
7. *He promised to give them a supernatural peace that went beyond human understanding.*
8. *He further instructed them that as long as they abided in Him, His supernatural life would flow through them and bear much fruit for the Kingdom of God.*
9. *He told them He was leaving His divine joy with them and that their joy would be full; and*
10. *He told them that He now considered them His friends, loved by Him in a special way, proving it by revealing to them the will of His Father, and partnering with them in continuing the work the Father had given the Son to do on earth.*

REFLECTION: After each of the 10 promises noted above, jot down your thoughts about each one?

So, He gave them these fantastic promises to comfort and encourage their hearts in His absence. But then to balance things out so they wouldn't have an unrealistic view of ministry—He presents a troubling reality to them.

That is—even though they have all these promises and all these blessings and all the gifts and empowerments from the Holy Spirit at their disposal—the reality is that they would find themselves living in enemy territory—in the midst of a hostile, rebellious, Christ hating world!

Since they represent Him, the world would hate them with the same kind of fiery venom that it had hated Him with. Jesus wanted them to understand that even though He had given them so many great and precious promises—their ministry for Him wasn't going to be an easy road.

He was sending them out as sheep among wolves and they needed to understand that up front lest they get an unrealistic view of the Christian life and become quickly disillusioned by what awaited them. So, in this section we have presented to us the hostility of the world toward the people of God—which is the cost of being one of Jesus' disciples.

Remember, He told us—*"I did not come to bring peace but a sword..."* (Matthew 10:34); also (2 Timothy 3:12)

John 15:17 forms kind of a transition or 'bridge' between the warm, tender, loving relationship and promises of Jesus to His disciples—and the reality of the hostility and antagonism they would experience from the world at large:

John 15:17 (NKJV)
¹⁷ These things I command you, that you love one another.

In other words: *"Keep on loving one another sacrificially—because you're going to need each other desperately. You're going to need to depend on one another for help and support as you begin to experience the hatred of the world towards you."*

The world sure isn't going to love us—therefore we've got to love one another!

Without the fellowship and support of fellow believers in the local church it can be a lonely world out there and in fact already is for many Christians who have chosen to isolate themselves from the Body of Christ for any number of reasons.

The world doesn't accept us—and we sure don't want to get involved in what they're into.

So, the only ones we have to count on for support and love is our Savior and other believers.

Jesus introduces the subject of the worlds' hatred using the transition of verse 17—and notice He didn't make it optional ("if you feel like it"), it was mandatory—**"These things I command you, that you love one another"**.

The love of God being manifested through the people of God for one another was going to be vital if they were going to be able to face what was coming as they went into all the world preaching the Gospel.

In this passage (verses 18-25), the Lord gives them 3 reasons *why* the world would hate them so vehemently—

- **The World Hates Christians Because We Are Not of the World**
- **The World Hates Christians Because It Hates Jesus**
- **The World Hates Christians Because It Does Not Know God**

1. **The World Hates Christians Because We Are Not of the World—(verses 18-19)**

John 15:18-19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

We are not of the world—we live in it but are no longer a part of it! When we got saved, God delivered us out of the world, and we became the “church” of Jesus Christ.

The Greek word translated ‘church’ in the NT is the word, ‘ekklesia’—a word that literally means, “An assembly of called out ones.” It speaks of those who have been called out of the world (spiritually and morally) to a life of separation and service to God as His own special people!

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Listen, we have been called out of the world morally and spiritually—but we are still in the world physically. We could say, “We are still living in the world, but the world is no longer living in us (or at least it shouldn’t be)!”

It reminds me of the children of Israel that God delivered out of Egypt (a type of the world)—***it took God one night to get them out of Egypt but forty years to get Egypt out of them!***

It takes God a moment to get us out of the world (“salvation is the miracle of a moment”)—but often a lifetime to get the world out of us (sanctification).

1 John 2:15-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

The word “**world**” that Jesus used here in John 15—or for that matter that John used throughout his Gospel and epistles is the Greek word “*kosmos*.”

Kosmos is not a word that refers to *nature* or *ecology*—it's a word that refers to the world system. It's a theological expression denoting "*the whole fallen world system of depravity, evil, open hostility and rebellion against God and the people of God.*"

When we think of the "**world system**"—we naturally think of **human governments**. But the word *kosmos* is really more about the spiritual powers behind earthly governments than it is about the physical and political governments themselves.

In that regard it is a spiritual term more than a political one—even though earthly governments are implicit in the definition of *kosmos*.

Please understand, the governments of this world are under the control of the devil whom the Bible calls the "*god of this world.*" (2 Corinthians 4:4)—

1 John 5:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway* of the wicked one.

John is telling us that **the whole fallen world system is being controlled by the devil** who carries out his will through a vast army of fallen angels and demons—but also, through fallen humanity whom he has taken captive to do his will (2 Timothy 2:26).

So, when Jesus warned His disciples of the hostility they would experience from the world—He had in mind the fallen world system of darkness, depravity and demonism that is under the control of the devil.

It is this evil world system that's going to hate the believer.

Actually, what we have here are **two opposing kingdoms** that are in conflict (war) with one another—what the Bible calls, the "*Kingdom of Light*" and the "*kingdom of darkness.*"

John 8:23 (NKJV)

²³ And He [Jesus] said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world."

As we said when we studied this passage in John Chapter 8—there are two kingdoms that all human beings belong to—the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of the devil.

Each kingdom is entered into through 'birth'—Satan's kingdom is entered into through physical birth and God's Kingdom is entered into through a second birth, a spiritual birth—as when a person receives Jesus into their heart as their Savior and is "born-again". (John 3)

These two births become the entry points into two very different kingdoms, ruled by two very different kings—the God of the Bible (Yahweh) and the god of this world (Satan). The Bible calls God's Kingdom—a Kingdom of *life* and *light*; and it calls Satan's kingdom—a kingdom of *death* and *darkness*.

When Jesus told these men that "*He was from above* (heaven)" and that "*they were from beneath* (this fallen world system)"—He was making reference to these two kingdoms.

Now understand that these two kingdoms are at war with each other!

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

When we studied Ephesians 6, we said that—**when we gave our lives to Jesus we entered into a war—a war that, although invisible, is still very much real! We are at war with an extremely powerful, super intelligent, hyper-malevolent spirit-being known as the Devil who commands a very powerful army of demonic warriors.**

The Devil and his army are determined to destroy people in hell by keeping them prisoners—and we are the army of God commanded to go into all the world with the Gospel (‘good news’) which alone can set them free.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NKJV)

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments [*worldly ideologies*] and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...

REFLECTION: There are two opposing kingdoms: the Kingdom of Light and the Kingdom of Darkness – describe these two kingdoms?

Listen—anytime a person dares to stand up and claim allegiance to Jesus and live a life of devotion and dedication to Him—the world will attack with everything it has! Now, when we talk about the world and its hatred for the followers of Jesus—we need to realize we’re not just talking about atheists and agnostics.

You see much of the world system is very religious—which is one of Satan’s greatest deceptions and best used weapons against the people of God. That is because religious zeal is the most powerful zeal in the world. (John 16:1-2)

We are seeing this like never before in our lives.

We are seeing the hatred of the world (those who are still under the control of the devil) being manifested against the people of God. We have some in our church that have been ‘cancelled’ by their unsaved family members—they have been expunged from the lives of their closest relatives and friends because—they are Christians and conservatives who voted for Donald Trump!

Now they are being further hated and ostracized because they won’t get the COVID-19 vaccine. It has gotten to the point where it is not a matter of disagreeing with us, or simply believing that we are wrong or even stupid for not getting the vaccine—**it has morphed into religious fanaticism!** By that I mean, they don’t just think we’re wrong—they now think we’re evil!

I have recently heard people on cable TV use the term 'cult' to describe us (they are trying to frame the argument against using religious language to ramp up the zeal against us!). Why are we evil? Because we are killing people by not taking the vaccine.

We are now being labeled **'domestic terrorists'** and some want us banned from flying on airplanes as terrorists are banned from doing so. Many are advocating that we be banned from all public gatherings like: concerts, restaurants, sporting events—or even from going to the grocery store if unvaccinated!

I have even heard some on the left say that unvaccinated people (Christian/conservatives) should have their children taken from them by the state and that they themselves should be put in 'reeducation camps' (concentration camps or gulags).

One democratic lawmaker even suggested recently that it should be legal to shoot the unvaccinated—because, after all—*"they are an unmitigated evil walking among us, and society needs to be purged of all these 'murderers.'"*

>>> I have never seen the level of hatred and vitriol being leveled at those (most of whom being Christians/conservatives) for choosing not to follow the crowd (i.e., 'the world')—which in this case means refusing to be vaccinated.

>>> , the only way to interpret what's going on is that this is the newest way Satan has invented to persecute the people of God—and it's laying the groundwork for the coming of the Antichrist and his government.

>>> I don't believe that the vaccines are the 'mark of the beast'—but they are certainly laying the groundwork by mentally preparing people for the mark when it does become available. When it does, the world is going to line up to take it with the same religious zeal people are lining up to take the vaccines now.

The difference being that no one at that time will be deceived into taking the mark of the beast as they have been into taking the vaccine.

REFLECTION: Describe levels of worldly "hatred" you have seen or personally experience?

I'll close this morning with an article written recently by conservative commentator Wayne Allyn Root entitled, **"Welcome To 1938-First, They Came For The Unvaccinated."**

Mr. Root begins by declaring:

'This is the most important commentary I've ever written.'

It's time for alarm bells. It's time for me to play the part of Paul Revere: "The communist tyrants and dictators are coming! The communist tyrants and dictators are coming!" They're coming first for unvaccinated Americans.

[Imagine that] This is 1938...and I'm a Jew. I now understand just a little of what it felt like to be a Jew in 1938. No, it's not the Holocaust—Nothing can be compared to the Holocaust. Ever.

But 1938 was not the Holocaust. It was the pre-Holocaust. It was the time before the nightmare, when the foundation was being laid to destroy freedom—free speech, businesses and lives of millions of Jews.

Everything happening today to the American people ... to the U.S. Constitution ... to freedom ... and particularly to unvaccinated Americans reminds me of 1938. This is only the beginning. It gets much worse from here.

*First, "**The Papers.**" Vaccine mandates and vaccine passports are just like 1938, when the Gestapo demanded papers from every German.*

Republicans asked for "papers" from migrants who had broken into our country. Criminals. Democrats said, "No, that's racism." Republicans asked for "papers" once every two years for federal elections, to prove you have a right to vote. Democrats said, "No, that's racism."

Now Democrats want American citizens, not illegal aliens, not criminals, but patriots born in this country, to produce papers 24/7. We'll need papers to enter restaurants, bars, nightclubs, concerts, casinos, conventions and hotels and to board a train, plane or bus. We'll need papers to enter a supermarket, or we'll starve to death. All for the crime of being unvaccinated...! All for the crime of being unwilling to inject an untested, rushed to production, experimental, "for emergency use only" shot into our bodies.

What happened to the war cry of Democrats: "My body, my choice"? It only applies to murdering babies, but it doesn't apply to dangerous experimental shots we don't want injected into our bodies.

Weren't Jews injected with experimental drugs by the depraved Nazi government? Wasn't that a key part of the Nuremberg trials? That no government could ever again inject experimental shots into the bodies of unwilling citizens? Isn't that a basic human right?

By the way, this isn't about vaccines. If you want the vaccine, take it. I'd never stop you. I'd never limit your freedom, your choice. This is about vaccine mandates – forcibly injecting Americans who don't want it. That's 1938.

*But there's much more in common with 1938—**Mask mandates.** If you're scared, wear them. I'm not scared. I don't want to wear them. Mandates are about forcing individuals to lose their freedom, choice, individuality and human rights. That's 1938.*

***Lockdowns** are a match with the Warsaw Ghetto. Jews were locked down. Jews couldn't work. Jews couldn't travel. Jewish businesses were labeled "nonessential."*

If government can force us to close our businesses, to kill our jobs, to decide who is nonessential—then this is 1938.

***Stars on clothing.** It's coming. The vaccinated get into restaurants, bars, concerts, supermarkets, planes and trains. They keep their jobs. The rest of us are marked as "subhuman" for life. That's the star. That's 1938.*

*Media and social media as the public-relations wing of the government. That's called **propaganda.** Remind you of 1938? Back then, the Jews' books were burned. Today, it's those of conservatives, patriots and specifically the unvaccinated. We are silenced. Our facts are labeled "misleading." Only the facts that agree with big government's agenda count. That's 1938.*

***Door-to-door intimidation** and making lists of those who disagree with "government knows best." Trust me, that army of door-to-door vaccine brainwashers will soon be turned into [an army of] Gestapo gun-grabbers.*

1938 was the year Nazis banned Jews from owning guns. They took them door to door. That's 1938.

Only days ago, a former Department of Homeland Security official said the unvaccinated should be on the **federal no-fly list**. That's exactly how Nazis attacked the Jews and others who disagreed with their agenda. It was always lists. Lists of people to be disappeared in the middle of the night; lists of those to be sent to reeducation camps; lists of those to be sent to concentration camps; lists of enemies of the state. It's happening again. Maybe this time you'll only lose your job or free speech. This is, again, 1938.

It's all disgusting and disgraceful. But I'm warning you, this is just the start. It's all going downhill from here – fast. This is the end of America. This is 1938. Unless we stop it now. Unless we take a stand now. Unless we draw a line in the sand now.

First, they came for the unvaccinated. Trust me: Next, they're coming for you.

REFLECTION: Write down your immediate thoughts going through your mind after you have read the article above written by Mr. Root:

Let me finish on a 'high note'—and that note is Jesus is coming soon!

And when He does, He will establish a new world order—the glorious Kingdom Age!

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reach out to us [here](#).

Want to know more? Click [here](#).