

Introduction:

- John 15:18-27
- We must remember the context of the passage especially when we are going verse by verse. It is easy to forget context when doing that. I.e.” *We can’t see the forest for the trees.*” The passion of the cross is just a few hours away and Jesus is choosing to spend that time with those He dearly loves and those He is entrusting the Kingdom too.
- Jesus is talking to them about staying in the vine, loving each other, obeying commands; all with the cross in his sights.
- He just spoke to them about love and ‘friendship with Him vs. 15.’ Now it is about to get scary before it gets scary. We now go from love each other to the ‘world will hate you and persecute you.

I. Understanding John’s Words I want to lay a little ground work as set out.

- A. Miseo - Greek word for hate. It is an intense dislike and an out right rejection of. If you hate something or someone you have an intense dislike of and you reject it/them openly. I.e. Liver.
1. Jesus states openly to His disciples that the world hates them.
 2. He also tells them why; the world hated Him first.
 3. Because of all the hatred directed towards you, understand that you will be persecuted.
- B. Dioko - Greek for Persecute - to expel, to accuse.
1. These two words (hate and persecute) are the opposite of what Jesus has been talking about.
 2. Jesus is about to demonstrate the depths of His love towards us who believe while the world demonstrates its hatred towards Him and those who believe.
- C. Kosmeo - Greek word for world. 5x in verse 19 alone. Meaning to command, to order in the OT. In the NT it never means order or structure it means world, worldly or of the world.
1. The present cosmos is alienated from God. (1 Cor. 3:19; cf. 2:6; Jn. 12:31; 16:11).
 2. Because of this it is never used to speak of the world to come. (aion - age)
 3. Satan is called the ruler of this world. Jn 14:30

II. Why the World Hates Jesus Followers

- A. First, because the world hated and persecuted Jesus (15:18, 20) The world REJECTED Jesus.
1. “... *the world, it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.*” (John 7:7, ESV)
 2. “*If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.*” (John 15:18, ESV)
 3. “...*If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you...*” 15:19 imperative or emphatic.
- B. Second, because His disciples are no longer “of this world” (15:18)
1. In John 8:23 Jesus says in the hearing of his disciples, “*you are of this world, I am not.*” Now, In John 15:19 he hits them with a totally new truth/thought! “*You are not of this world!*”
 2. “*you are not of the world, ... therefore the world hates you*” (15:19)

3. The world hates His disciples because they are not of the world (15:19; 17:14). The disciples did not agree with or affirm the values and lifestyle that is celebrated by the world. It was a new idea to them that “they were not of the world.”
 - a) they were filled with wonder when Jesus spoke of Himself as not being of this world.
 - b) now He is saying to them, you are not of this world.
 - c) Like Him, their citizenship is in heaven, they have access to God! What hope this gives in the midst of so much hate and rejection. *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,”* (1 Peter 1:3–4, ESV)
- C. Third, the world hates us because they do not know God (15:21).
 1. The world hates what it does not know. It does not know God! Therefore what fellowship has light with darkness? None! Because it can't.
 2. *“For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.”* (1 John 2:16, ESV) These are contrary to the Kingdom. The world prefers the pursuit of pleasures, possessions, and positions without reference to God.
 - a) What will it take to make the world love us as its own? Compromise.
 - b) Indulge a little more, Hide your light under a basket, become less salty, keep your faith to yourself!
 3. But we, we are ...*sons of the resurrection*. (Lk. 20:34-36) Not of this world! This is our new identity!
 4. The New Testament Gospel calls us to be anchored in eternal perspective (this is what Jesus is doing in John 15-17)—knowing that our daily decisions have eternal consequences and rewards.
 - a) Living for the age to come is foundational to loving God and people while facing the world's hateful persecution and seductive temptations.
 - b) We cannot walk through the chaos of this world if we are not anchored in the age to come as the place of our primary reward and vindication.
 - c) We are friends of Jesus not the world. *“... Don't you know that flirting with the world's values places you at odds with God? Whoever chooses to be the world's friend makes himself God's enemy!”* (James 4:4, TPT)

III. As Sons Of the Resurrection

- A. What Jesus is teaching and saying to His friends in John 15:18-ff is that you are now identified with me. By this, all men will know you are my disciples; by the way you love each other.
- B. We are seated with Him, now, in heavenly places.
 1. *“But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ,”* (Philippians 3:20, MSG) Eph. "made to sit together with Him in heavenly places.”
 2. *“to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,”* (1 Peter 1:4, ESV)

3. *“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”* (Matthew 5:11–12, ESV) Identified with the prophets! What an honor.
 4. *“By faith Moses...esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”* (Heb. 11:24-26)
- C. Knowing your identity in Christ will empower you to stand and overcome. Secondly,

IV. Jesus Promises A Helper! vs. 26

- A. If you are living in a world that is full of hate and hates you; you need a Helper. If you are living in a world that rejects you, you need a Helper. If you are being persecuted because of hate and rejection you need a Helper. So Jesus bring us some good news!
- B. *“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.”* (John 15:26, ESV) *“When the Friend I plan to send you from the Father comes—the Spirit of Truth issuing from the Father—he will confirm everything about me. You, too, from your side must give your confirming evidence, since you are in this with me from the start.”* The Message
- C. The ‘Helper’ is the ‘paraclete’ Greek word for Helper/Spirit of Truth!
1. To speak on behalf of. Called in to help.
 2. To help by representing or speaking for. Advocate is the best translation.
 3. To help and or support.

Conclusion:

- We have an identity with Christ! And a Helper/Advocate! Jesus is trying to help us.
- *“I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.”* (John 16:1, ESV)
- What things???
- Abide in me.
- Ask what you wish and it will be done.
- Abide in my love. This is my commandment: Love on another.
- You are my friends not servants.
- Bear fruit that will remain.
- And remember love one another.