

John 15v18 - 16v4

What to expect...

© St Helen's Church

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, published by Harper Collins Publishers. © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.

Used by Permission. All rights reserved.

What to expect...

John 15v18 – 16v4

Remember this section is about living life after Jesus' death and resurrection...

In our last study we saw that belonging to Jesus makes us part of the true Vine – the real people of God.

As we listen to, and keep, Jesus' WORD, we are joined to the true fruit-bearing vine:

- Loving like him, praying like him, having joy like him and bearing fruit for him in the world (ie others joining him)
- The 'fruit' we bear is the fruit of self-sacrificial love for God and his people.
- Like the love of the Father and the Son, those who love like this will reach out to others.

In this study we shall discover how the world will respond to us as God's people.

This study falls into four parts:

Part 1: The world hates Jesus' true fruit-bearing disciples

We start by reading John 15 vs 18 -21...

As you read - what is the 'surprise' in these verses?

John 15 vs 18-21: *“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but 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 also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.*”

The world hates Christ!

v 18: *“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.”*

In vs 18-21 Jesus explains why it is that the world will hate us. What reasons does he give?

v18 - The world's hatred of us is linked to the world's hatred of Jesus. We already know that the world hates Jesus because of John ch 7:

ch 7 v 7: *“The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.”*

Now we discover that the world treats us like it treated Jesus...

The world hates us because Jesus has chosen us out of the world and we are therefore different - we challenge the world because by definition we are part of the 'Vine'.

➤ v19 - "I chose you out of the world – therefore the world hates you!"

v 19: *"If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."*

The world hates us because the world does not know the Father:

vs 20- 21: *"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 also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me."*

What does this tell us about the world?

- The world is essentially conformist – is that not a true statement?
 - Social convention
 - Business convention
 - Dress codes
 - Acceptable habits and hobbies

In short – we think someone is strange if they don't "toe the line"!

The world will hate us because, as true fruit-bearing members of the vine we will live selfless lives that expose the sin of the world.

v 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 also keep yours."*

- So then - persecution is the lot of the servant just as it is for their master.

Part 2: The world is guilty!

How do verses 22-25 expose the world's guilt?

Read ch 15 vs 22-25: *"If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'"*

So - the world is guilty because the world will not listen to Jesus' WORD!

v 22: *"If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin."*

- Because the world knows what Jesus has said – it has NO excuse!!
- The world is rejecting the Son of God!!

The world is guilty because in hating Jesus the world hates God!

v 23: *"Whoever hates me hates my Father also."*

- And in hating Jesus – the world is hating GOD!
- NOT something to be done lightly – at least not now we understand the might of the one true God!!

The world is guilty because Jesus has done the work of God on earth – the evidence is all there!!

v 24: *"If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father."*

- In case we hadn't got the message – the world's response to Jesus is also a response to God:
- And it's worse because the world knows what Jesus has done through his works
- Because the works revealed God as his Father and - as we've seen - offered family membership!

The world is guilty because, as scripture says, they have no valid reason to hate Jesus.

v 25: *"But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'"*

- Jesus here fulfils another quote from another prophetic Psalm of David's - Psalm 69 v 4:

Read Psalm 69 v 4: *More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies. What I did not steal must I now restore?*

The significance of this quote should not be lost. Jesus is placing his Jewish opponents firmly in "the world".

In rejecting Jesus' words, he shows they are rejecting their long awaited King – the Messiah!

In summary – we should expect hate – NOT because we are hateful but because the world has rejected - with hatred – Jesus' WORD.

Part 3: God's witness to a hateful, guilty world will not be extinguished!

Let's read John 15 vs 26-27:

ch 15 vs 26-27: *“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. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.”*

How do these verses show us that God's truth will continue to be spoken in a hateful, guilty world?

v 26: *“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.”*

In the face of such opposition – ***the HELPER comes...***

- He witnesses to Jesus
- He is sent by Jesus from the Father...
- He proceeds from the Father and the Son...
- He is the 3rd person of the Trinity.

The Spirit will enable the 11 Apostles (who have been with Jesus from the beginning) to bear accurate witness to Jesus:

v 27: *“And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.”*

The Apostles are able to give accurate witness both because the Spirit is with them AND because they have been with Jesus throughout his earthly ministry.

Part 4: Be prepared...

Now let's read ch 16 vs 1-4:

ch 16 vs 1-4: *"I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you."*

WHY has Jesus said all this?!

- v1: ***"to keep you from falling away"***
- "You WILL face persecution of sortsand you will be tempted to fall away!"

What is the surprise in Jesus' description of the opposition?

vs 2-3: *"They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me."*

- The religious will cast us out and will even kill us!

So where should we expect the most opposition?

- From within the authorised, established Church – or religious bodies!

Examples:

- The repeated hostility of the Church of England to the work of Evangelical Churches and Theological Colleges... for supposedly being too "narrow" in their (Biblical) teaching!
- Regular reports of hatred towards Christians across the world.
- The Bishop of New Westminster in Vancouver – a single-minded drive to back gay marriage in Church – then legally fighting in the courts to take the church buildings back from those who oppose him!
- The new Christian finding that her local vicar sneers at her new found enthusiasm about Jesus.

Why such persecution?

v 3: *"And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me."*

Why is Jesus telling the Apostles this... and therefore us?

v 4: *“But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.”*

- Because when he was with his Apostles, he was there to take the heat...
- But now he has departed, we will face the same sort of opposition...
- So we must be prepared.

Part 4: Be prepared...

This all sounds very bleak...

What encouragement is there for us when Jesus is gone?

John 15v18 - 16v4

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but 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 also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’

²⁶ “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. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

¹⁶ “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.”