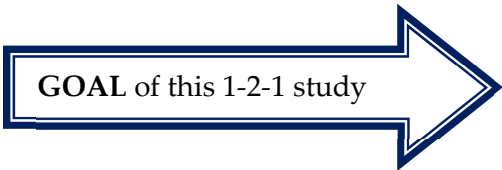


# Summary Sheet for John 15v18-16v4

## ...to accompany Notes 30



GOAL of this 1-2-1 study

**Be prepared and don't fall away. Expect disciples of Jesus to be hated and resisted by the unbelieving world... because it hates and resists Jesus and the Father.**

### Context – how does this passage fit in?

Jesus has been teaching his disciples how to live once he has left to go to his Father. Their main priority is to remain firmly rooted in Jesus, the true & fruitful vine (15:1-17), as this is the only way to bear fruit that glorifies God. As such Jesus is creating a new people within himself who will be characterised by their love for one another. This raises the question of how they'll be received by the world. So, Jesus now prepares them.

The world will hate them as it hates him because the world hates and rejects his Father. Remembering how the world treated Jesus in ch7 & 8 because of 7v7 will help. This reaction is inevitable, and cannot be avoided, for God will not give up on the world. Instead he sends the disciples to be his witness. But Jesus promises that the Spirit of truth will be at work in the world to help the disciples, causing people to believe their testimony about their Master.

### Impact on us

Jesus wants us to be prepared and equipped for the world's reaction so that we will persevere as his fruitful disciples and won't fall away (16.1).

We must be realistic and not think that people will automatically welcome us with open arms any more than they did our Master, who they put to death. We should expect the same hostility as we share his gospel message and live his way. If we have the right expectations we will be able to continue as loyal disciples of Jesus without giving up in frustration, discouragement or fear of rejection. Jesus wants us to *be prepared, not worried* – and to know he is still at work in the world through the Spirit and disciples' testimony about Jesus.

### How John writes to make his point

John 15.1-17 is about the disciples' relationship with Jesus and John 15.18 – 16.4 is about the disciples' relationship with the world. The world's hatred of Jesus and his disciples contrasts sharply with the love that they have for one another. The world's hatred is explained and then quite surprisingly shown to come particularly in the form of persecution from the religious, who *'think they are offering service to God.'* The disciples are therefore encouraged by being shown that the opposition occurs because they are following Jesus and the world is guilty, not because they are doing something wrong, it is part of God's plan, God will still achieve his purposes through the Spirit and their witness about Jesus.

#### Structure

##### Cause of persecution

- 15:18-21 Disciples follow Jesus' pattern, so expect to be treated by the world like he was – with hatred
- 15:21-25 The world is guilty. Their hatred springs from a hatred of God. The world has no excuse because in Jesus they have seen God's perfect revelation of himself.

##### Response to persecution

- 15:26-27 God's witness will not be extinguished - He has not given up on the world. The Holy Spirit will testify about Jesus through the disciples. (How this happens is unpacked in 16.4-15)
- 16:1-4 Forewarned is forearmed. The world will persecute Jesus' fruit-bearing disciples with burning religious zeal. But knowing in advance will keep them from falling away.

## John's references to the Old Testament and why they matter

### - '*They hated me without a cause*'

Jesus wants his disciples to realise that they shouldn't be surprised that the world hates him and his Father - Scripture tells them to expect this. It doesn't mean

In Psalm 69, King David writes of the violent persecution he faced because of his love for the Lord, and concern for his Temple, where God's presence dwelt (Ps69v9).

By quoting from Psalm 69:4, Jesus is making the point that if David could be hated for no reason, how much more would God's chosen King/Messiah (who had an infinitely greater love for his Father) be hated?

### Some questions to help guide someone else through ch 15v18-16v4

**Opener:** Where do you see Jesus' teaching clashing with how the world thinks (eg in the media, education, celebrities...)?

**Considering the text1:** How does Jesus describe how the world will relate to the disciples in v18 - 21? Why is Jesus saying this to his disciples now, given what he's just said in ch15v16?

**Considering the text2:** What are the different reasons Jesus gives in this passage for why the disciples should expect this reaction?

**Considering the text3:** How does Jesus expose the world's guilt in v22-25? How will knowing this help the disciples not fall away?

**Considering the text4:** How does Jesus provide comfort for the disciples in 15v26 - 16v4? What can the disciple in 2012 learn from this about their role in the world and how they are equipped?

**Ones to keep chewing on:** List some examples of where you/Christians you know in the City and beyond have experienced the disapproval of the world and particular the 'religious' world. What impact could this have on you?

How does this passage help to prevent disciples of Jesus from falling away and prepare them to live, love and speak about him in the City?