

John 15:26-16:4a
Supernatural Help for the Hated

INTRO: *“It was my appointed time to stand, and their time will come.”*

(note John 15:26-16:4; 1 John 3:13; 1 Peter 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:12; Acts 14:21-22)

2 Major Takeaways

1) Christ Abundantly _____ Faithful Disciples, Especially Those that are _____

(John 15:26-27; 14:16-18; Acts 1:4-8; Romans 6:10-11)

Major Takeaways

**2) Christ Forewarns His Disciples to _____ Them For the Coming _____
with the Hostile World.**

(John 15:28-16:4a; 15:18-25)

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

If the video of your Christian life were made into a full-length motion picture, would it depict a *sold-out disciple*? Someone wholly committed to the Great Commission and the Lord's church? OR would it depict a lukewarm believer? Someone that played it safe and who was (often) more interested in the comforts/things of this world? Acts 4:13. Acts 17:6.

Note John 15:18-20a; 1 John 3:13; 1 Peter 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:12; Acts 14:21-22. *Hatred and Persecution.* Have you gone home thinking "*I best keep my beliefs to myself*" OR are you resolved to go back into the lost world with greater *purpose, fortitude, and understanding*?

Supernatural help from on High. Jesus will never leave you (Christian) or forsake you. He has not left His people here below as orphans. Note John 15:26-27; 14:16-18; Acts 1:4-8; Romans 6:10-11. The promises of Christ related to the Holy Spirit in John 14-16 should be read in context to really appreciate them.

After listening to many sermons on sinful hatred and Christian persecution, how are you holding up? What promises have been the *most encouraging* to you (from John 14-15)? In what ways have you been *challenged* and, in the same breath, *emboldened*? How does God's Word help us make better sense of this crazy world?

The word "hate" is mentioned eight times in this section of Scripture. When was the last time someone dropped a "hate bomb" on you *because of your Christian faith*? We're not talking about obnoxious and needlessly brash Christianity...I'm talking about you being targeted as a result of *your authentic, courageous, Spirit-filled, Christian witness* (like what we encounter in the book of Acts). When's the last time you suffered for righteousness's sake? Talk about a time when you, as a believer, were "hated without cause?"

Of the many promises in John 14-15 which have comforted and encouraged you the most?

Review the two major takeaways from today's sermon exposition of John 15:26-16:4.

Don't join the "undercover Christian club," where everyone's faith is "private and personal" and where "*mum's the word!*" Note 2 Timothy 1:7-12; Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15; Joshua 1:8-9; 1 Corinthians 16:13.

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armor, each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.*

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle, the next the victor's song.
To those who vanquish evil a crown of life shall be;
They with the King of Glory shall reign eternally.*

*"Stand up, stand up for Jesus! The trumpet call obey:
Forth to the mighty conflict, in this His glorious day;
Ye that are men now serve Him against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose."*

Highlight some various examples (past and present) where Christians have suffered for the faith (near and far)? Note Foxe's Book of Martyrs; Open Doors Ministries; Voice of the Martyrs; etc.

“The Christian who does not anticipate opposition does not yet understand the nature of the Christian life”
Dr. Sinclair Ferguson. Luke 9:23-25

Related Songs: Hymns- *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. Getty- He Will Hold Me Fast. O Church Arise. The Lord is My Salvation. City Alight- On that Day. Matt Boswell- God the Spirit. Steven Curtis Chapman- For the Sake of the Call.*

Current Sermon Series Outline

Note message from a few weeks ago- *9 Words of Wisdom Amidst Escalating Christian Persecution*. This was the applicational addendum to our current sermon series-John 15; (see below).

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** (*see 1/1/23 sermon*)

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

B) A Micro Historical Overview of *New Testament Persecution* against God’s People.

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

C) *Contemporary Historical Examples* of persecution against God’s people.

(note progression in Acts 2-8)

III) **Jesus’ Prophetic Words Concerning Hatred and Christian Persecution** (*1/15/23 & current msgs*)

(*John 15:18-16:4*)

Here’s not only what to expect but 4 reasons why the big bad world HATES true disciples:

- 1) They hate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (John 15:18; 7:7; Prov. 29:27; Mt. 10:22).
- 2) They hate our high and holy calling (John 15:19; 6:66; Deut. 7:6-8; Eph. 1:3-14).
- 3) They are spiritually ignorant (John 15:20-24).
- 4) They are unwittingly fulfilling God’s Sovereign purposes (John 15:25; Rom. 8:28; Ps. 69:4; Acts 2:21-28; John 13:18-19; Genesis 50:20).

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