

Are You Striving to be Hated?

You should be.

3/26/2017 Sunday AM

Scripture: John 15:18-25, John 17:14-16

Introduction

- We just finished our study of John 9 where Jesus healed the man that was born blind.
- In our last study talked about Spiritual Sight vs. Spiritual Blindness.
- We learned that we must realize that we are “blind,” in order for us to gain “sight”.
- We must become blind to this world, so that we can see the things of God clearly.
- This morning I am asking the question, Are You Striving to be Hated? My answer is, You should be.
- What is your answer though?
- For many people here today, you think this is a very odd question to be asking.
- Surely no one strives to be hated, most strive to be loved and accepted, right? Well that depends.
- Let’s read John 15:18-25 and see if we can make sense of this question.

John 15:18-25

¹⁸“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. ²²If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. ²³He who hates me hates my Father as well. ²⁴If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. ²⁵But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’

- Jesus and his disciples have just left the Last Supper and they are on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane
- Jesus began to teach the disciples many things as they walked.
- In vv. 1-17 he taught them that he was the Vine and they were the branches and that they must produce fruit.
- He used the analogy of a Garden and a Gardener, the Gardener was the Father.
- In the verses we are looking at this morning in 18-25 he is preparing them for the world’s reaction to them.
- If they live as he laid out in vv.1-17, the world will react the way he lays out in vv. 18-25.
- **V.18** – Jesus tells the disciples that “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.”
- There is no doubt that the world hated Christ during his ministry, they went as far as to crucify him.
- However, the world today still hates Jesus and they hate him with a passion.
- What Jesus says to them next though, is the meat of what I want us to get this morning.
- **V. 19** – “If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”
- **So why did the world hate the disciples, and why does it still hate us today?**
- We have only two choices: 1) To be loved by the world or 2.) To be hated by the world.
- As much as you want there to be middle ground, there is none.
- If you are “straddling the fence” you are basically saying you haven’t made a choice.
- That is why the question this morning is, Are You Striving to be Hated?
- If you are striving to be hated, then you are striving to not belong to this world, to not serve the world.
- In Jesus’ prayer for the disciples in **John 17:14-16** he said this, “¹⁴I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.”

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- The world hates us because of the “word” of God as John 17:14 says.
- Jesus plainly tells us that we are not of this world and that he has “chosen” us out of this world.
- We have to deal with things that take place in the world right now, however the tremendous hope that we have is that this is not all we have to look forward to.
- We should live as people who have Heaven as an eternal home, not as people who belong to the world.

- In order to live a life like this, we are required to follow the Bible’s teachings as to how we should live.
- Too often, Christians are living in ways that are mirror images of the world and how those that are lost live.
- You should strive to be hated by the world, because that means that you are living for Christ and are living in a way that indicates you are His child.
- If the world is accepting us with open arms all of the time, that may be an indication that we aren’t doing something right.
- This does not mean that people should be spitting at you as you walk down the street and insulting you in every public place.
- However, if you make a choice to follow Christ and to live for him, you will absolutely experience persecution and the hatred of this world at points throughout your life.
- Sometimes this comes from people as close as your own family when you chose to live differently.

- Think about famous people today, there aren’t a lot of widely known famous people that we identify as Christian in our world today.
- Why is that? Because they would be ripped apart by the world. No one would watch their movies or listen to their songs, or whatever it is they do.
- This passage this morning warns us about how the world will treat us, but encourages us to live for Christ.
- He was the greatest example to us of living in the world among people that hated him, while at the same time, not backing down from living for and serving the Father.
- **So the main question is, Are you living in a way that shows you are not of this world and that you serve Jesus Christ? Or Are you living in a way that no one can tell the difference?**
- Strive to be hated by the world, so that God can be glorified through us.

Tonight’s Bible Study

We will not have Sunday Night Bible Study until April 30th.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Who’s Who in the Bible? – Mary the Mother of Jesus