

JOHN 15:18-25

JESUS ENDURES

As tone shifts, Jesus prepares His disciples for what lies ahead.

Life with Him will not only produce love; it will also bring opposition. “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first” (15:18).

Following Jesus in His mission includes facing the world’s response to Him. In John’s gospel, “the world” represents a system that resists and rejects God. And, just as Jesus was misunderstood and opposed, His followers should expect the same.

This is not meant to discourage them, but to prepare them. They no longer belong to the world in the same way. They now identify with Jesus. And that difference will be noticed.

Even in the face of rejection, Jesus reminds them that they are not alone. God sees, knows, and remains with His people. The call is not to retreat, but to remain steadfast in Him, even when it is costly. Following Jesus means sharing in His love. It also means sharing in His endurance.

DAILY READINGS

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|------------------------|--------------------|
| I. JOHN 15:18-25 | V. 1 JOHN 3:10-24 |
| II. ISAIAH 53:1-12 | VI. JAMES 4:1-12 |
| III. 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17 | VII. PSALM 69:1-15 |
| IV. 1 PETER 4:12-19 | |

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 15:19

JOHN 15:18-25

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 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. ²⁰ Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’”

Handwriting practice area with a grid of dots.

DISCUSSION

Can you remember a time when you deeply wanted to be accepted or included—maybe on a school team, in a social group, or among friends? Have you ever felt the sting of rejection? What was that experience like, and what did you learn from being left out?

Read John 15:18-25 aloud.

Jesus has just been speaking about love and friendship, so this warning about hatred from the world must have felt jarring to the disciples. Why do you think Jesus includes this caution at this moment in His teaching this evening?

When Jesus speaks of “the world,” to what is He referring? Why does the world hate Jesus and His followers? What does it mean that Jesus has chosen His disciples “out of the world” (v. 19)?

In 15:20, Jesus recalls His earlier words from John 13:16. What do those words mean in the context of John 13 and the foot washing scene? How does the context of chapter 15 deepen or expand their meaning?

Jesus says that His rejection fulfills Scripture (v. 25). Why is it important to remember that everything that happened to Him was foretold and part of God’s plan?

Do you ever feel rejected because of your faith? Are there moments when you want to speak up but hesitate because you fear how others might respond? Please share with the group.

How can you support and pray for one another as you seek to live faithfully for Christ in a world that can be resistant—or even hostile—to His message?



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