

“They have not known the Father or Me.”

*John 15:18-16:4*

*18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. 20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. 22 "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 "He who hates Me hates My Father also. 24 "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. 25 "But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.'*

*26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, 27 and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.*

*16:1 "These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. 2 "They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. 3 "These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me. 4 "But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.*

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Jesus is looking back and looking ahead.

/He is looking back to the persecutions He endured. He is looking ahead to the persecutions that His disciples will endure.\

*John 15:20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.*

Last Sunday, we saw that Jesus was speaking not about the world of unbelievers in general, but rather about a particular group of unbelievers, namely the religious leaders in Jerusalem.

Who persecuted Jesus during His public ministry, His ministry to the world?

*Luke 19:47*

*47 And He was teaching daily in the temple; but the chief priests and the scribes and the leading men among the people were trying to destroy Him,*

/ The chief priests and the Pharisees persecuted Jesus. They were the religious leaders.\

/In John 15:18-21, Jesus tells His disciples that the world hates them. And He traces that hatred back to world's hatred for Him and for His name.\

*John 15:18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. 20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.*

Here we see the root cause of this hatred.

/They did not know God the Father, the One who sent Jesus. \

They worshipped another god – a false god.

/They worshipped their father. And their father was the devil – the god of this world.\

*John 8:42-44*

*Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.*

*43 "Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. 44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.*

*John 15:22 "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 "He who hates Me hates My Father also. 24 "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. 25 "But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.'*

/In John 15:22-25, Jesus reflects back on His public ministry to the Jews in chapters 2-12. He looks back to the things that happened to Him at the hands of the chief priests and Pharisees. They hated Him and His Father for no reason at all.\

*John 5:15-18*

*15 The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. 16 For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. 17 But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."*

*18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.*

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Remember, John refers to the religious leaders in Jerusalem as "the Jews".

*John 7:32*

*The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to seize Him.*

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*John 19:6*

*6 So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, "Crucify, crucify!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him."*

*John 16:1 "These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. 2 "They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. 3 "These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me. 4 "But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.*

/In John 16:1-4, Jesus looks ahead to the persecution that awaits the disciples at the hands of these religious men.\

They will make the disciples outcasts from the synagogue. They will kill some of them - thinking they are serving God in the process. But they will not be serving God the Father. They will really be serving their god: the liar and the murderer.

And here once again Jesus puts His finger on the real problem: they do not know God the Father or His Son Jesus Christ their Messiah and Lord.

In John 16:1-4, Jesus looks ahead to the persecution that awaits the disciples at the hands of these religious men.

/And the Bible records that His prediction came to fruition.\

*Acts 5:40-41*

*40 They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. 41 So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. NASU*

*Acts 14:19*

*But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. 20  
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### *Acts 25:14-15*

*While they were spending many days there, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a man who was left as a prisoner by Felix; 15 and when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against him, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him.*

*/Jesus predicted that this persecution would get worse in the end times. \*

### *Mark 13:9-13*

*9 "But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them. 10 "The gospel must first be preached to all the nations. 11 "When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit. 12 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. 13 "You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.*

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/And Paul told Timothy to expect this same persecution as a good soldier of Christ.\

*2 Tim 3:10-17*

*10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! 12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 13 But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. You will. I will.

/Thank the Lord, Paul told also told Timothy what to do about it:\

*2 Timothy 3:14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

*16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

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