

# The Gospel of John Pt. 24

## John 15:18-16:4

### Big Idea

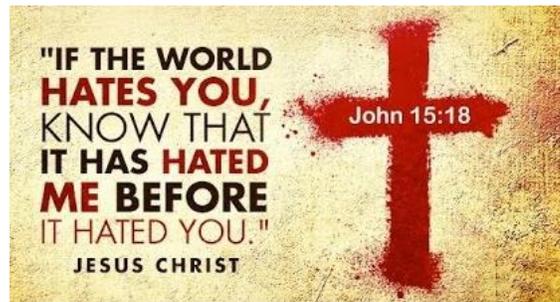
Our relationship with Jesus changes our relationship with the world. This is clear now and will be even more evident in the days to come.

### Exposition – John 15:18-64

Jesus and His disciples continue to move from the Upper Room on their way to the Mount of Olives. Previously, they stopped in a vineyard for a discussion on the Vine and Branches. Now Jesus moves to teach about the future relationship of His disciples to the world.

#### 1. War of the Worlds (V18-25)

- A. (V18-19) – As Jesus transitions to new subject matter, He begins these verses with the logical conjunction “if”.
1. (V18) – Jesus intends to ease His disciples’ anguish by identifying with them. The central issue is not that His disciples are hated, but rather that the world hated Him and therefore hates His disciples. This is essential to understand the issue. Disciples are not hated because of what we believe, but because of Who we follow. It’s important not to mistake the two.
  2. V19) – A dichotomy exists between the world system and the Kingdom of God. Jesus presents that dichotomy here. He suggests that there are two separate, exclusive natures: the nature of the world and the redeemed nature that God gives. And, these two are opposed to the other.
- B. (V20-21) – Disciples should expect to be treated as Jesus was treated. Why? Because the world did not recognize, appreciate, or value Jesus as divine. So, the world sees His disciples as representatives of a bogus king and bogus system of belief. Whereas those who believe and keep His commands will have no problem keeping the teachings of His disciples either.
- C. (V22-24) -- Jesus is not teaching that if He had not come that they would have been sinless, but rather that His coming provoked the deadliest sin, that of rejection. See Romans 7:4-13; Galatians 3 for more on how responsibility and accountability manifest upon the revelation of the Law and sin.
- D. (V25) – Jesus mentions the prophecy in Psalm 35:19 that is fulfilled by the rejection of the world and their subsequent hate. Keep in mind, Jesus did not live with intentionality to fulfill prophecy, but rather as He lived according to the direction of the Father, the prophecies were naturally fulfilled.



#### 2. Two Testimonies (V26-27)

- A. (V26-27) – Jesus speaks as He did in the Upper Room in John 14:16f about the sending forth of the Spirit. We can see the emphasis that Jesus put on the sending forth of the Spirit by the number of times He makes the promise: John 7:39; 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26; 16:7, 13, 14
1. Jesus offers a few insights about the Spirit:
    - The Spirit is from the Father
    - The Spirit is the Spirit of truth
    - The Spirit will testify about Jesus
  2. The Spirit empowers, impassions, and guides believers to testify about Christ as well. In 16:7 Jesus tells us that it is to our benefit that He goes to the Father and in turn the Spirit come to us for the purpose of the spread of the gospel.

### 3. Future Warning (V16:1-4)

- A. (V1) -- Stumble = to set a trap. The Greek word used implies that the Satanic ploy was intended to prevent the spread of the gospel.
- B. (V2-3) -- “outcasts from the synagogue” is a reference to the way the Jews would take away a Jew’s place in the synagogue if they showed support or faith in Christ. This was the threat to the parents of the man born blind in John 9:22 and alluded to early in John 7:13.
  - 1. Also, Jesus mentions that in the days to come, those who persecute Christians would believe their persecution of those who believe on Christ would be honorable in God’s eyes. In our current context there are many misguided people who persecute sincere Christians out of a belief that they are being obedient to God in doing so. However, Jesus tells us in verse three that just the opposite is true. Their zealous persecution of sincere believers is due to their ignorance of God.
- C. (V4) – Jesus gives this warning at this point in time because He is about to do His final and greatest work on earth. Upon His ascension to the Father, believers, imbued with the Holy Spirit will be left to the Great Commission.

