

OUT OF THIS WORLD

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Scripture: John 15:17-25

3 reasons why the world hates Jesus' disciples:

1. The world hated Jesus first
2. Jesus and His followers are out of this world (true Christ-followers do not fit into the systems of the world)
3. The world does not know God

The kind of persecution Jesus talks about brings the Church together, it doesn't tear it apart.

GET TALKING

Francis Chan said: "Something is wrong when our lives make sense to unbelievers." Share a time when your life didn't make sense to an unbeliever. How did that make you feel? How did you respond to them?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read John 15:17-25.
 - There is an abrupt change between verse 17 and verses 18-25. Why does Jesus start talking about suffering and persecution immediately after His words about abiding and love? In other words, what does love have to do with suffering and persecution?
 - Read 2 Timothy 3:12 and 1 Peter 4:12-14. What additional insights do you get about the expectation of persecution and suffering in your life as a follower of Jesus?
2. Jesus gives us the perfect example of how to respond to persecution and suffering. Have each person in the group choose one of the following passages and share one thing you observe about how Jesus responded:
 - 1 Peter 2:23
 - Hebrews 12:2-3
 - John 13:15
 - Luke 23:34
 - Hebrews 4:14-16
3. Pastor Bob highlighted some of the differences between the kingdom of the world and the Kingdom of God. The Bible has lots to say about how we are to respond to those who mistreat us as Christians abiding in God's Kingdom. What is one key take-away you find in each of these verses that can help you personally respond when you are in a hurtful situation?
 - Acts 5:41
 - Romans 12:12-14
 - 1 Peter 4:16
 - Matthew 5:44-45
4. God does not waste any experience in our lives. He is always at work to mold us and shape us into His image in both the smooth times and in the difficult times. What results does God want to bring about in our lives through suffering and persecution from the following verses?
 - Romans 5:3-8
 - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
 - 2 Corinthians 12:8-10
 - Matthew 5:10-12

(continued)



PRAYER

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. – Hebrews 4:16

- Pray for persecuted Christians around the world (Hebrews 13:3)
- Pray for your enemies (Matthew 5:44-45)
- Pray for courage and boldness to live out your faith (Acts 4:20)
- Pray for unity in our mission as a church: to know Jesus and make Him known (Ephesians 4:1-3)