

# John's Gospel @ CF!

## John 15:18-27

Sermon notes – BK

November 9, 2025

### JOHN 15... We are back on track!

reasons why I like to teach through a book is that the context has already been laid out there, so when we read tough passages to understand (or just hard passages) ...

... We are able to see it in a “*wider beam*.”

... This gives us a broader perspective and greater insight.

### We have talked much about abiding in Jesus.

- He is the true vine
- He is the only one who gives life
- It is by abiding in Him that we bear fruit
- BEARING fruit... not making fruit... this is ALL GOD'S doing!

### *John 15:5b*

*“Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”*

### In this place –

- We are absolutely connected with Him
- Our Father... the perfect Gardener, prunes and shapes us as He sees fit

- We bear abundant fruit that will last
- ALL of this is for God's glory

We also... got to focus on one of my favorite words ever last week – JOY!

**John 15:11**

***<sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.***

**AWESOME – AMAZING – SIGN ME UP!**

**BUT – one thing we made clear is that this joy is not because everything is “peachy keen!”**

**THIS joy – the joy that Jesus gives is deep and abiding gladness, or contentment.**

**THIS joy is not dependent on circumstances**

**THIS is a joy that Jesus gives... that MY JOY may be in you...**

**I could imagine being one of His disciples hearing (Jesus' teaching so far) and thinking, “This is SO GOOD!” I am so glad to be a part of Jesus and His amazing plan!**

**Then we read what Jesus says next...**

- These are not easy words
- There are not new words
- These were not likely surprising words
- These are still hard words...

### **John 15:18-25**

***<sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. <sup>21</sup> But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father also. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father.<sup>25</sup> But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’***

***I read these words and I can wrestle with it...***

### **Why?**

- I want people to like me!
- I want people to “get” me!

### **I like the earlier words of Jesus...**

- “Abide in my love” (v. 9)
- “Love one another” (v. 12)

**TODAY... we can look at our US church culture... you can almost hear it now...**

- ***I am protected by Jesus... this will just NOT BE... RIGHT?!***
  - ***I have prayed for everything to be good!***
  - ***He said He would give me what I asked for!***
  - ***I have believed we will be free from struggle!***

Do we understand what Jesus is saying here?

*Not with that thinking...*

Is Jesus concerned about our comfort?

*Not in that way...*

**This does not fit in the “Prosperity Theology” picture very well, does it?**

**JESUS knew what was coming... it is not a new script.**

**One thing is for sure...Jesus understands...**

**...this literally hit close to home for Jesus...**

***John 7:7***

***“The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.”***

- These words of Jesus were *to a private audience...*
  - **Any guesses?**
  - ***These were Jesus’ (half) brothers that spoke this!***
- The world “***couldn’t hate them***” (His half-brothers) because **as of yet, they were not believers** that Jesus was the Messiah.

HERE we see how Jesus spoke clearly about His opposition.

**ABIDE** was the **key word** in the messages in the last couple of weeks – with the different nuances to that word...

**What do you suppose that word is in these verses?**

Yes – **HATE**.

Hate in the **Greek**, **miseō** - means **“to detest,” “to reject,” or “to regard with deep hostility.”**

The **Bible** carries with it, ***more than just a dislike*** – it has a **relational**, even **covenantal aspect** to it.

It is an **opposition and rejection of allegiance** in full.

John unpacks what Jesus said in a very thoughtful way...

When I dig deeper, I discovered Jesus uses this word “Chiastically” Meaning the word “hate” is used in a progression – then **is repeated in reverse order**

**It looks like this...**

**A - If the world hates you (v. 18a)** (Present Active Indicative)

**B - know it hated me first (v. 18b)** (Perfect Active Indicative)

**C - You are not of the world (v. 19a)**

**D - therefore the world hates you (v. 19b)** (Pres. Act. Ind.)

**C' - He who hates me hates my Father (v. 23)** (Pre. Act. Participle(ing)/Indicative(ed) for 2<sup>nd</sup>

**B' - They hated me without cause (v. 25)** (Aorist Act. Ind.)

**A' - They have hated both me and my Father (v. 24)** (Perf. Act. Ind.)

Jesus was helping them to see that as they proclaim the Good News, it will not be popular... But Jesus knows and is there for them.

Was this a sudden shift in topic? No

Was it a contrast with “Abiding in love?” Possibly...

Could also be – TWO SIDES of the SAME COIN...

In fact we see that ABIDING in His love is what Jesus is saying will CAUSE the world to HATE you!

*Jesus was preparing them for what was to come...*

Jesus knows, and has known all along He would be opposed.

John stated in the first chapter...

***John 1:9-11***

***“<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.”***

**John 1:9**

***“The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.”***

**John 8:12b**

***“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”***

**What does light do? It exposes what is in the dark... where the Enemy likes to hide!**

**The light of Jesus exposes darkness...**

**“The World” – the world system**

- Corruption
- Hate
- Greed
- Etc...

**The world does not want to be exposed as “evil” they have other names for it, like “choice and autonomy.”**

**This is all code for, “I will be my own god!”**

**In this place they reject God and hate what He represents.**

**We have see in John’s Gospel, that “hate” is frequently tied to *moral and spiritual blindness*:**

**John 3:20**

***“Everyone who does evil hates the light.”***

**John 7:7**

***“The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil.”***

**Jesus is exposing it all, and they no longer have any excuse. Jesus goes on in 15...**

***John 15:21-22***

***“But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.”***

**SO what is the reaction of the people?**

**Repentance? *In some cases...***

**Rejection? *In all the other cases.***

**Do you think Jesus saw all of this coming?**

**Yes – Starting with His own death.**

**SO... What does all of this mean for us today?**

**Have Jesus’ words come true since he spoke them?**

**Are Christians actually hated?**

**Yes... disproportionately so...**

**I did a little research on those who have died for their faith (martyred)... The results are interesting...**



<u>Religious Group</u>	<u>Est. Martyrs/Killed for Faith</u>	<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Key Events</u>	<u>Per Capita Impact</u>
Hindus	~1–2 million	700 CE – 2025	Islamic invasions (e.g., Delhi Sultanate), Partition (1947), modern mob violence	Mostly regional (South Asia)
Jews	~7–8 million	30 CE – 2025	Roman wars, Crusades, Inquisition, pogroms, <b>Holocaust (6M)</b>	<b>Highest per capita</b> (~50% of global Jewish population killed in 20th c.)
Muslims	~10–20 million	600 CE – 2025	Mongol invasions, Crusades, colonial wars, sectarian violence, Soviet purges	Large but mostly intra-religious or political
Christians	~70–100 million	30 CE – 2025	Roman persecutions, Islamic conquests, communist regimes, modern Islamist attacks	<b>Highest absolute total</b> ; spread over 2,000 years

### ***John 15:18***

***18 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.***

Jesus is letting them know that what their mission when Jesus leaves will not be an easy one – they will be opposed.

Jesus tells them why...

**“Hatred” here represents a *clear clash of “loves:”***

- **God’s love for the world** (John 3:16) offers **salvation**.
- **The world’s “love of darkness”** (John 3:19) **resists that salvation**.

**The world DOES LOVE... DARKNESS!**

**But what the world loves is NOT Jesus.**

**What is our response to be to their hate? Our love.**

***1 John 4:7-12***

***<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.***

**We will be opposed... because Jesus was.**

**We will be saved, because Jesus does.**

**The opposition that is out there is nothing new...**

- I pray any opposition we get is because we look like Jesus... NOT RELIGION**
  - **Opposing hypocrisy in the church**
  - **Choosing to walk in humility**
  - **Not here to entertain... here to exalt Jesus and love authentically.**

**AND... we are not alone...**

**Next week, we will get more into the work of the Holy Spirit...**

***John 15:26-27***

***<sup>26</sup> “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.***