

Pastor Jim Jackson, 6/7/26
Days With Jesus, Day 47—The Love That Divides
John 15:18-16:4

The world LOVES its own

After Jesus tells his disciples to love each other and be unifying, he describes the opposite—which is satanic disunity and chaos. Although God created the world, He did not create the evil, sinful governmental systems and wicked philosophical paradigms that dominates it. Out of this limited freedom, the world is run by sinful men, and it became enemies of God (Rom. 12:2; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17). *Power without God leads to power against God! At birth, everyone is born physically and spiritually into the world's system and its way of thinking. And just like family members love their own, the world loves and accepts those who support its values. But, as God in the flesh, Jesus doesn't fit into the world's system and neither will his disciples. Spiritual families are eternally at war!*

The world HATES the Master and the servants

To keep his disciples from thinking that their best life was going to be now, he explained if the world hated a perfect man, they will hate his imperfect followers. There's no amount of godliness that will keep persecution from a believer's life. Difficulty in living for God is often evidence you are walking with God! *Christians live for the glory of God not in the absence of persecution, but in spite of it* (Mark 4:17; Rev. 2:10). Jesus claims that to love him is to love God and to hate him is to hate God. As there is no middle ground or neutral life, people must count the cost to follow him. *Loving God is the ultimate covenant that limits cooperation or affection with others* (Luke 14:27-29; 2 Cor. 6:14, 15).

Your ALLEGIANCE will cost you

Jesus prepared his disciples for conflict as an inevitable outcome of following his teachings. Some will lose spouses, jobs, possessions, and even their own lives. Sadly, some people will think they are doing God's work by putting God's children to death (Luke 21:12-19). *Some people God uses the greatest are required to give the most!* One of the reasons baptism is a public act is that it clarifies to the physical and spiritual world who a person is committing to their life and soul to (Acts 2:38). The good news is Christians aren't alone in difficulty but have the Holy Spirit to give strength to live and die for Jesus. *Trust your life to the God who gave you life!*