

HATED BUT NOT ALONE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JOHN 15:18-16:4

John 15:18-16:4 - Sermon Outline and Notes for Meditation:

 THE _____ OF HATRED

 THE _____ OF HATRED

 OUR _____ TO HATRED

- 1 Read John 15:18-20.** In light of where this passage stands in relation to the rest of the Gospel of John, what does Jesus want to talk about in these verses and why do you think he chooses this topic? *What principle does Jesus introduce in v. 20? What does he mean by it?*
- 2 Read John 15:19-20.** Is persecution something you ever think about? What do you know about how the global church is suffering for Jesus' name? If Jesus says we are to expect trouble in this world on account of him, what does that say about us if we rarely, if ever, have experienced any troubles because of Jesus?

 *Take some time to Google "Christian persecution" and see how this theme has relevance today. Perhaps jot down some of the areas of worst affliction. Maybe read a modern Christian martyr's story and be prepared to share it with the group.*
- 3 Read John 15:21-25.** What does Jesus say about why the world will persecute his followers?

 *Does anything stand out about the kind of language Jesus uses to describe the relationship between the world and followers of Christ?*

 *In v.24, Jesus indicates that those who persecute him are guilty of a specific sin. What is that sin?*
- 4 When we get to heaven, no one will ever regret having lived for Jesus while we were on the earth.** We'll only regret that we didn't do more. Martin Luther puts it this way, "When we shall live in that day, we shall look with wonder on one another and say, 'Shame, that we were not of better cheer, braver, stronger, and more joyful, to trust Christ, and to endure all tribulations and crosses and persecutions, since this glory is so great.'"

 *Reflect on Luther's quote – what thoughts first come to mind after reading it?*

 *Read (2 Corinthians 4:16-18) and summarize Paul's view of persecution and suffering. Do you often share that perspective? If not, how do Paul's words challenge or convict you?*

