

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>15:18</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.’

<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.

<sup>16:1</sup> “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. <sup>3</sup> And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. <sup>4</sup> But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.”  
- John 15:18-6:4 (*English Standard Version*)

## Reflection

The ultimate reason for the world’s hatred of Jesus is that he testifies that its deeds are evil. Christ’s followers will be hated by the same world, partly because they are associated with the one who is supremely hated, and partly because, as they increase in the intimacy, love, obedience and fruitfulness depicted in the preceding verses, they will have the same effect on the world as their Master. They too will appear alien. The world loves its own: this is not a sociological remark about inborn suspicion of strangers, but a moral condemnation. The world is a society of rebels, and therefore finds it hard to tolerate those who are in joyful allegiance to the king to whom all loyalty is due. Christians do not belong to the world, not because they have never belonged, but because, Jesus avers, I have chosen you out of the world. Former rebels who have by the grace of the king been won back to loving allegiance to their rightful monarch are not likely to prove popular with those who persist in rebellion.

D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According To John* (p. 525)

# Sermon Outline

**Don’t Be Surprised**  
John 15:18-16:4

*Table Talk in an Upper Room*  
Brad Anderson

## What does Jesus want us to know about persecution?

### The Cause of Persecution (John 15:18-25)

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### The Continuity of Persecution (John 15:26-27)

- The Spirit testifies about Jesus
- The Disciples testify about Jesus

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### The Confrontation of Persecution (John 16:1-4)

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## Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- Have you ever been on a winning team in a league where other teams hated your team and were even out to “get you”?
- Since the emphasis in John 15:9-17 was on love, why does Jesus change here to talk so much about hate?
- How is the relationship of the disciples to the world like that of Jesus’ relationship to the world? What does Jesus mean here by “the world”?
- What lesson did Jesus teach by the phrase “no servant is greater than his master” in John 13:16? What does the phrase teach about how they should respond to the world’s hatred?
- How has Jesus’ coming highlighted the reality and evil of sin? (See John 15:22, 24)
- Are you more likely to get criticism from your unbelieving friends or the religious establishment? How do you handle criticism?