

Date: 3/4/2018
Series: Final Words
Sermon Title: When the World Hates
Sermon Text: John 15:18-27



GC Discussion Questions

Big idea: *Although we will experience hostility from the world like Jesus did, it is to the world we bear witness with the Holy Spirit.*

1. We all have expectations of our friends, work, church, and family. Could you describe a time when you had strong expectations that went unmet? What did you feel when that happened?
2. What expectations did you have for your life when you became a Christian? Are they the same expectations that you have as a Christian today?
3. Let's read this week's passage. Would someone read John 15:18-27 for us?
4. So why do you think Jesus said this to his disciples? And, on those same lines, why do you think this passage is important for Christians to read today?
5. What is the reason given by Jesus that his disciples will be hated?
6. And what is the role of the Holy Spirit in this passage?
7. What kinds of persecutions do Christians face globally today? What kinds of persecution are Christians facing here in Tempe, AZ?
8. What should our response be when we hear about persecution, both around the world and here in the Southwest?
9. **Directed Prayer:** In Chuck's closing words he said, "Let's focus our energies, together, on shining the bright light of Jesus Christ no matter how dark the world gets."
 - a. **Could two of us here tonight pray** for the light of Jesus Christ to shine brightly in persecuted countries? And as you do that, could you pray specifically for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to testify about Jesus through the Christians in those countries?
 - b. **Could another two people pray** for the light of Jesus to shine brightly here at Church on Mill?

- i. Would one of you pray specifically for our elders, Randy, Todd, Tad, and Chuck, to love Jesus sincerely and to continue to lead us well?
- ii. And would the other person pray for our Church on Mill family – that our love for one another and our obedience to Jesus’s words would testify to Jesus’s greatness?