

Sunday, September 1, 2024

Title: “The Lord Loves; The World Hates”

Text: John 15:12–25

Series: *The Gospel of John*

Setting – Nearing Passover, Jesus recognizes “his hour had come” (John 13:1). Jesus then washes His Disciples’ Feet to Prefigure His Lowly, Humble Condescension on the Cross the Following Day. Yet, even during the Supper, Judas has become Satan’s pawn to Betray Jesus to a Violent Death (John 13:1–11).

That same night, Jesus clearly identifies Judas as His betrayer—while still offering Himself to Judas as the Bread of Life. Judas rejects Jesus, Satan enters into Judas, and Judas goes out into the night to betray Jesus to violent crucifixion (John 13:18–30). Peter wrongly offers himself as the loyal one who will die for Jesus. In truth, Peter will deny Jesus (as Jesus predicts), yet Jesus will die for Peter—and to atone for the sin of all of His sheep (cf. John 10:14–18). As a lifelong characteristic, Jesus’ followers will love one another (John 13:34–35).

In John 14, Jesus begins His “Farewell Discourse.” In this chapter, Jesus especially assures and comforts His reeling disciples (now down to 11!) on this night leading to His shocking death on the Cross. Jesus assures those who trust Him that He will bring them to a prepared home with God through Jesus alone, the way, truth, and life (John 14:1–6)

In John 15:1–11, Jesus gives the central metaphor that vividly portrays his teaching throughout the discourse: He is the true vine, God the Father is the gardener, and people are the branches. One only bears fruit through a life-giving connection with the Vine and the wise pruning of the Gardener. Abide in Jesus!

I. The Lord Loves (John 15:12–17)

A. Jesus loves by laying down His life for his friends (15:12–14)

B. Jesus has chosen His people to be his friends (15:15–17)

II. The World Hates (John 15:18–25).

A. The world hates Jesus, so it hates Jesus' followers (15:18)

- 1) "I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you" (15:19)
- 2) "If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you" (15:20)

B. The world hates God (15:21–25)

- 1) "they have no excuse for their sin" (v. 22)
- 2) "guilty of sin" (v. 24)
- 3) they hated me without a cause" (v. 25)

III. The Lord Helps the Hated (John 15:26–16:4).

A. Jesus sends "The Helper...the Spirit of Truth" (15:26–27)

- 1) The Spirit bears witness about Jesus (15:26)
- 2) The Disciples will bear witness about Jesus (15:27)

B. Jesus has spoken about the world's opposition to prepare His followers for a challenging future with faith in Him (16:1–4)