

Sermon Notes

Growing a Thicker Skin

(John 15:18-16:4)

A. Choose a Side

"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.'" (John 15:18-25)

B. Embrace the Mission

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:16-18)

"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning." (John 15:26-27)

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you shall be My witnesses." (Acts 1:8)

C. Keep Your Nose in the Bible

"These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me. But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them." (John 16:1-4)

"And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you may prove what the will of God is; that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)

For Further Thought and Discussion

Getting Started

What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Why do you think sharing our faith with someone is frightening for many believers?

Going Deeper

1. Please read John 15:18-25. How does our relationship with Jesus change our relationship with the world? Why? Why is it essential that we choose a side? Why can't we just be friends of Jesus and friends of the world? Why choose Jesus' side?
2. Please read John 15:18-25. How does the Spirit of Jesus work through us in other people? Why is embracing our mission essential for growing a thicker skin?
3. Please read John 16:1-4. Why is Jesus giving His disciples these instructions? How does the Bible keep us grounded in reality? Why do we need to keep grounded? Why is a regular intake of Scripture essential for growing a thicker skin? (Romans 12:2)

Application

What is one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?