



Key References:

John 15:18–21 (ESV) – “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

John 16:1–2 (ESV) – “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² 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.

1 John 2:15–17 (ESV) – Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 3:13 (ESV) – Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

Matthew 10:19–20 (ESV) – ¹⁹ When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Matthew 5:44 (ESV) – But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Luke 23:34 (ESV) – And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.

1 – JESUS PREPARING HIS DISCIPLES

Andy said that Jesus’ words, in John 13 to John 16, he spoke to the disciples right before he was arrested. **Looking at the different section in there, why did Jesus include a section on hatred in John 15?**

Read John 15:18-21. **Why did Jesus stress that the world hated him first?**

Why did Andy emphasise the “if” that begins this section? How can Christians be both highly-regarded & loathed by the world around them?

Based on Jesus’ words will we ever be completely liked & accepted by the world? Why does this question make us uncomfortable?

2 – HOW JESUS DEALT WITH OPPOSITION

Jesus was loved by many. **But how did Jesus deal with hatred and opposition during his ministry?**

Andy said that Jesus: *exposed motives; asked good questions; spoke with wisdom; applied scripture; sought peace; blessed the community; at times was silent and left situations; and focused on his mission.* **Can you think of times Jesus did one of these? Which ones speaks to you the most as something you can do?**

3 – THE CONSEQUENCES OF FOLLOWING

What are the real-world consequences of following & professing Jesus?

Read John 16:1-2. **What was the significance of the synagogue in their time? And, what is our version that we could expect to be “put out of”?**

Read 1 John 2:15–17 & 1 John 3:13. **Are you prepared to become an outcast as you follow Jesus & live under the authority of God’s Word?**

4 – HOPE FOR THE HATED

Read Matthew 10:17-22. **How will God provide us strength to follow Him?** (See also: 2 Corinthians 1:3–5, 4:17–18, 5:18–21, and John 16:33)

5 – LOVE & FORGIVENESS

Read Matthew 5:44, Matthew 6:14-15 and Luke 23:34. **How has the love and forgiveness of Christ towards you changed your life? Like Christ did for us, how can we cultivate hearts of love & forgiveness towards those who are against us?**

How will the love & forgiveness of Christ change Nanaimo?