

"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"

The Gospel of John

John 15:18—16:4

Read John 15:18–16:4.

1. Look back at John 15:9–17, and compare it with this week’s passage.
 - a. What contrast do you see?
 - b. How does what Jesus foretells in this week’s passage make the command in last week’s passage (15:12) even more important?
2. The world has hated and persecuted Jesus (15:18, 20).
 - a. Why does the world respond to him in this way? (Jn. 3:19–20; 7:7)
 - b. In treating Jesus this way, who else has the world rejected? (15:23)
3. How will the world treat the disciples once Jesus has departed? (15:18–20; 16:2)
4. What will some persecutors claim is the reason for their treatment of the disciples? (16:2b)
5. What are the true reasons for the world’s hatred and persecution of Jesus’ followers?
15:19

15:21a

15:21b; 16:3
6. Scan this passage again. What are the only two possible responses to Jesus?

How does holding to this unpopular truth put Christians at odds with the world?

7. Most of the world will “hate,” or reject, Jesus; however, there will always be some people who “obey” his teaching (15:20). What does obedience to Jesus’ teaching look like?

Jn. 6:29; 12:44


Jn. 14:1

Jn. 10:27; 12:26


Jn. 15:4–5, 9b

Jn. 15:12

8. Look again at John 15:22–24. Sin has existed from the early days of humanity. Nevertheless, Jesus’ presence on earth and teaching of the people brought out in them the gravest sin of all, namely, their rejection of the grace and truth and light God offered in his only begotten Son, his last and greatest revelation. In rejecting the Son, the people rebelled against the Father, embraced the darkness fully and finally, and brought on themselves the ultimate guilt.¹

How is rejecting Jesus more dangerous than being hated or persecuted by the world? (Jn. 3:36; Mt. 10:28;  *Heb. 2:3–4)

9. In the midst of telling the disciples about the suffering they will face, Jesus promises to send the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, to be with them after his departure.

a. What will the Counselor do? (15:26;  Lk. 12:11–12)

b. Jesus also calls the Counselor “the Spirit of truth” (15:26). How is this title appropriate for the work he will be doing?


10. Why do you think the disciples might be tempted to “go astray” (16:1) after Jesus’ departure?

11. Jesus tells the disciples about the coming persecution and about the Holy Spirit. How will knowing all of this in advance help the disciples weather the temptation to fall away? (15:26; 16:4)

12. At first, much of what Jesus says in this week’s passage seems sobering, and not terribly encouraging.

a. How is it sobering for you?

b. What encouragement do you find?

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

¹ D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1991), 526.