

With the Master in the Upper Room—Questions to Consider—Lesson 15—
John 15:17-21-The World's Twofold Response to Christians: Hatred and Persecution

- 1) Read John 15 and list all the warnings that Jesus gives to the disciples.

- 2) Memorize John 15:18.

- 3) (a) Jesus told the disciples that the world hated Him before it hated them. What kind of hatred did Jesus endure, and what was His response, according to the following verses? John 1: 10,11; 5:16-18; 6:66; 7:1, 30-32; 8:40, 59; 10:31-39; 11:57.

- 4) (a) Jesus prepares the disciples by telling them they will be persecuted (John 15:20). Read the following verses and write down what kinds of persecution some of the New Testament saints endured. Also, if it is recorded, note the attitudes which accompanied their sufferings. Acts 5:40-42; Acts 7:54-60; Acts 8:1-4; Acts 12:1-4; Acts 16:16-34; 1 Corinthians 4:11-14; 2 Corinthians 4:8-11; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28; Galatians 6:17. (b) How do these compare to your sufferings and to your attitudes when going through suffering?

- 5) (a) Read Matthew 5:13-16 and 2 Timothy 3:12, and list some possible reasons why some Christians may not be receiving the persecution that Jesus promised would happen. (b) How do believers become “salt that is worthless” or “lamps that have been placed under a bushel?”

- 6) (a) How does the world today manifest hatred towards Christians? (b) Has the world become more Christianized, or have Christians become worldlier? Explain your answer.

- 7) How have you prepared those whom you disciple, your children, and those you teach, that persecution and hatred will indeed happen to them?

- 8) (a) Share a time when you were hated or persecuted because you were a Christian. (b) Were you able to rejoice? (c) What did you learn about Christ, about the world, and about yourself during that time?

- 9) Are you currently being persecuted because of your faith? If so, how can we pray for you? If not, how might we pray to prepare you for when or if those times of persecution come? (“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” 2 Timothy 3:12.)