

SERMON DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

February 22, 2026

Expect Hate

John 15:18–16:4a

1. SERMON OUTLINE

a. As You Abide in Christ, Expect Opposition and Hatred (John 15:18–25)

i. The systems and citizens of this fallen world hate Jesus.

ii. Everyone who abides in Christ should expect the same.

b. Bear Witness to Jesus Anyway (John 15:26–27)

i. The Holy Spirit is God's provision to help you endure that hatred

ii. Bear witness to Jesus in the Spirit

c. Hold Firm in the Face of Hatred (John 16:1–4a)

2. SUNDAY AFTERNOON – As soon as possible after the sermon, consider:

a. What stood out most to you from the sermon?

b. Were you surprised by Jesus' direct statement that the world will hate His followers?
Why or why not?

c. Read John 15:18–20 slowly. What words or phrases should you meditate on this week?

d. What is one specific way you sense God calling you to prepare for opposition?

e. Has God exposed any desire in you to be accepted by the world more than being faithful to Christ?

3. MONDAY:

a. Read the entire passage slowly. If possible, compare two translations.

b. Observation Questions

i. What reasons does Jesus give for the world's hatred?

- c. What does this passage reveal about:
 - i. God's sovereignty?
 - ii. The nature of the world?
 - iii. The cost of discipleship?
- d. What commands or expectations does Jesus give?
- e. Look up the following cross-references:
 - i. Psalm 69:4 – How does this prophecy connect?
 - ii. Matthew 10:16–25 – What similar warnings does Jesus give?
 - iii. 2 Timothy 3:12 – Is persecution presented as unusual or normal?
- f. What does this passage teach about the spiritual conflict between Christ and the world?
 - i. How does it clarify the doctrine of persecution? Read Matthew 5:10-12, 10:16-23; Romans 8:35-39, 2 Timothy 3:12
 - ii. How does persecution fit into God's redemptive plan?
 - 1. Does persecution advance the Gospel? (Acts 8: 1-4)
 - 2. Does persecution identify God's people with Christ? (Philippians 3:10, 1 Peter 4:13)
 - 3. Does persecution purify the church? (James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:6-7)
 - 4. Does persecution display the worth of Christ? (Hebrew 10: 34, Revelation 12:11)
- g. Reflect on these questions as they pertain to your walk with the Lord.
 - i. Do you expect spiritual opposition as a normal part of discipleship?
 - ii. How prepared are you spiritually for hostility?

4. **TUESDAY:**

- a. Read Psalm 69:4 carefully.

- i. In its original context, who was being hated and why?
- ii. How does this psalm foreshadow Christ?
- iii. How does John 15:25 show fulfillment? Think of this...
 1. It quotes the Psalms. Its language is about unjust hatred, hatred without a cause. Look at Psalm 35: 7, 19, and 69:4.
 2. It identifies Jesus as the ultimate righteous sufferer.
 3. It shows us that even rejection can be part of God's sovereign redemptive plan.
 4. Persecution confirms God's word rather than disproving Christ.
- b. Read Isaiah 53:3. How does the rejection of the suffering servant deepen our understanding of Jesus' words?
- c. Reflect on Genesis 3:15. How does the promise of conflict between the serpent and the woman's offspring frame all of redemptive history? Why is hostility toward Christ inevitable in a fallen world?

5. **WEDNESDAY:**

- a. Focus on John 15:18–19.
 - i. Who or what is "the world" in this passage?
 - ii. What does it mean to be "not of the world"?
 - iii. How does abiding in Christ (John 15:4–5) intensify the world's reaction?
- b. Compare the following two passages:
 - i. 1 John 2:15–17 – What are believers warned against?
 - ii. Romans 12:2 – What transformation is required?
- c. The truth of the matter is that if you belong to Christ, the world will hate you. In contrast, if you belong to the world, the world embraces you.
- d. Are there any areas in your life where you are tempted to soften your allegiance to Christ to avoid tension?

6. **THURSDAY:**

- a. Read John 16:1 and answer the following three questions:
 - i. Why does Jesus warn His disciples in advance?
 - ii. How does theological preparation guard against falling away?
 - iii. What spiritual disciplines strengthen endurance (prayer, Scripture, fellowship)?
- b. Consider Hebrews 12:3–11. What is the difference between persecution and divine discipline? How should believers interpret suffering biblically rather than emotionally?
- c. Are you cultivating habits that prepare you for hardship?

7. FRIDAY:

- a. Read John 15:26–27 again.
 - i. What promise does Jesus give regarding the Holy Spirit?
 - ii. What responsibility does He give to believers?
 - iii. How did Jesus model faithful witness in the face of hatred?
- b. What does faithful discipleship look like in your workplace, school, or family?
- c. Where do you need boldness to speak?

8. SATURDAY:

- a. Slowly reread John 15:18–16:4a and then answer the following questions:
 - i. Which verse speaks most directly to your heart?
 - ii. What is the central aim of Christian living in this passage?
 - iii. How should expecting hatred change your daily mindset?

9. APPLICATION:

- a. Commit yourself to reflection and personal action:
 - i. How should you respond when mocked or misunderstood?
 - ii. How can you pray for those who oppose you?

- iii. What concrete step will you take this week to bear witness to Jesus
- b. Commit yourself to the following four truths:
 - i. Abide in Christ daily.
 - ii. Expect opposition as a normal part of discipleship.
 - iii. Bear witness to Jesus anyway, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - iv. Stand firm without surprise when hardship comes.

10. PRAYER FOCUS: Unreached People Group: The Shaikh of Bangladesh.

- a. The Shaikh are a large Bengali Muslim community. Many live in densely populated rural villages where daily life revolves around agriculture, small trade, and close-knit family structures. Islamic teaching is woven into community rhythms through local mosques and religious festivals. Religious leaders and elders hold significant influence, and family honor is highly valued. Decisions—especially religious ones—are often communal rather than individual.
- b. Major Spiritual Barriers include a strong Islamic identity integrated into cultural life, fear of social rejection or family dishonor if one follows Christ, limited access to clear Gospel teaching and discipleship, and pressure from local religious authorities.
- c. Prayer Requests:
 - i. Pray for bold believers who will stand firm even when misunderstood or rejected (John 16:1).
 - ii. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bear witness to Christ in and through new believers (John 15:26).
 - iii. Pray for whole households to come to faith together, reducing isolation for converts.
 - iv. Pray for faithful Gospel workers who are prepared spiritually and theologically to endure hardship.