“Our Testimony As Disciples of Jesus in A Hostile World” **John 15:18-27**

Sunday June 11, 2023 Pastor Timothy Atkins

## INTRODUCTION READ John 15:1-27

Jesus teaches us that being His disciple means rejection, opposition, and persecution by the world because the world hated Him

 Relationship with Jesus 15:1-11 Relationship with One Another

 Relationship with the world 15:18-25

Prophecy by the Lord Jesus that would be fulfilled and now is fulfilled . . .

1. Testimony of Faithful Disciples of Jesus

 In The Face Of A Hostile World 15:18-21

 Why the World Is Hostile to Disciples of Jesus

 REJECTION by the world Not of the World But Chosen Out of the World

1. Know that The World Hated Jesus First 15:18

“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you.”

“hatred continues to the present time”

1. Understand that The World Loves Its Own & Not You 15:19

OPPOSITION from the world

If you were of the world, the world would love *you as* its own;

but because you are not of the world, “love of friendship” cf. 15:12-17

 but I chose you out of the world,  cf. John 15:16

 because of this the world hates you.

1. Remember that the World Persecuted Jesus 15:20-21

PERSECUTION by the world

**“**Remember the word that I said to you . . .” command cf. John 13:16

“If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you as well . . .” condition

twisted His words, lied about Him, threatened, accused, harassed, attacked Him

“But all these things they will do to you on account of My name” cause

they will do these things because . . .

1. Testimony of The Faithful One Jesus Himself

 Before The Eyes of The World Who Hated Him 15:22-25

How the World Is Hostile to Jesus Himself

 A. Hearing His Words They Are Guilty of Rejecting Him 15:22

 “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin . . .”

B. Hating The Son of God They Are Guilty of Hating the Father 15:23

 “The one who hates Me hates My Father also.”

1. Seeing His Works They Are Guilty of Denying Him 15:24-25

“If I had not done among them the works which no one else did . . .”

“but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well.”

“But *this has happened* so that the word that is written in their Law will be fulfilled: ‘They hated Me for no reason.’” Cf. Psalm 69:4

1. Testimony of The Spirit of Truth through the Disciples of Jesus

 In The Presence of A Hostile World 15:26-27

“When the Helper comes. . .whom I will send. . .who comes from the Father”

“He will testify about Me, and you are testifying as well . . .” cf. John 15:16

CONCLUSION Our Relationship with Jesus & with the World . . .

* Understanding these words by Jesus for you as His disciple so that we would rightly interpret and personally expect such hostility by the world
* Loving the disciples of Jesus who are persecuted in the world so that they would remain faithful to the Lord in the world
* Knowing there are costs for my relationship with Jesus as His disciple which has consequences in my relationship with those in the world
* Believing this teaching by Jesus Himself so that we ourselves would continue in our relationship with Him and His disciples
* Testifying about Jesus by the ministry of the Holy Spirit as those bearing fruit according to the words of Jesus