

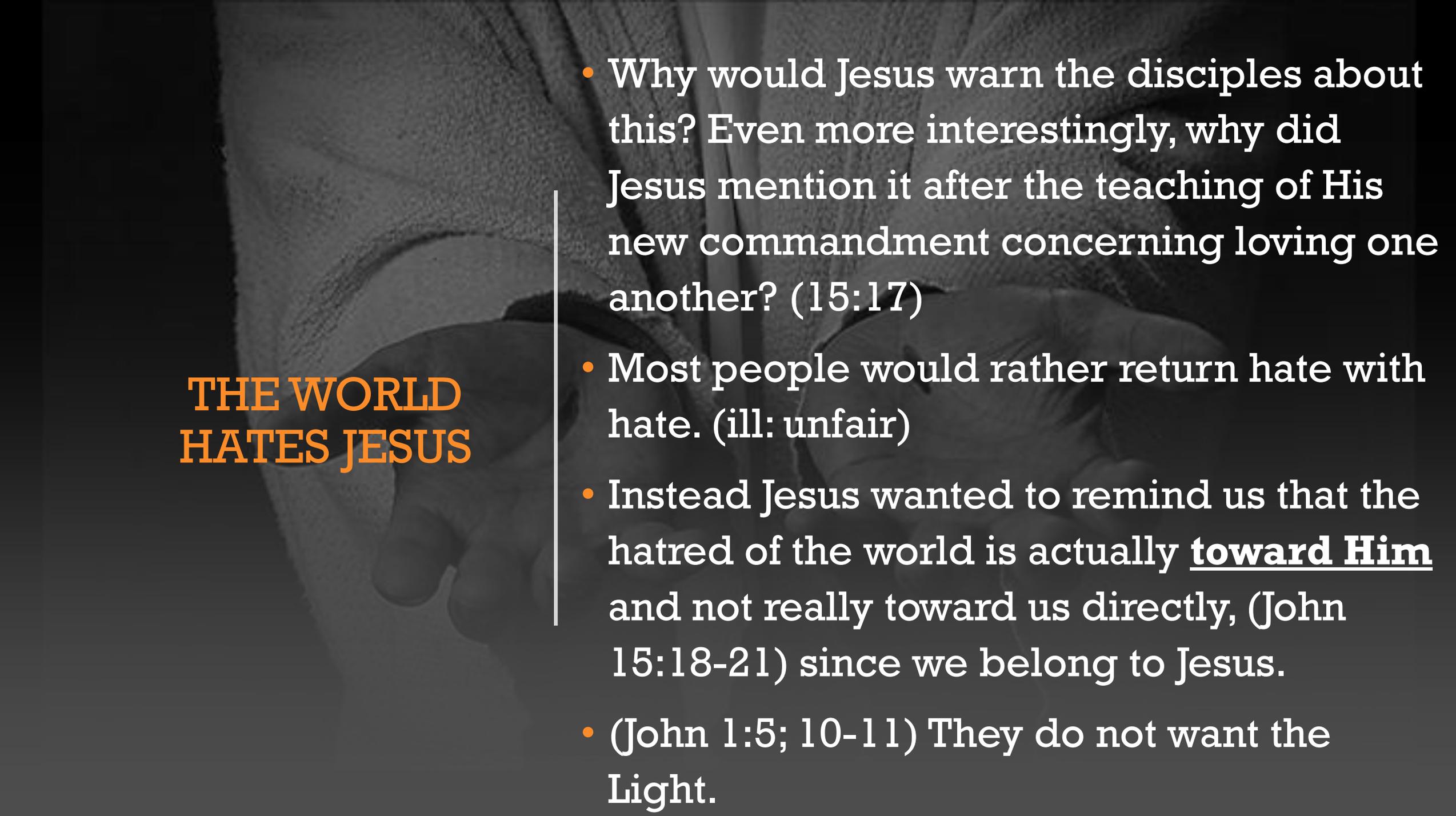
THE WORLD HATES JESUS

JOHN 15:18-16:4

A FINAL WARNING



- Jesus knew His time of departure was coming. But before His death He was giving the disciples a final **warning**.
- The same warning was also given in the **beginning** of His ministry. (Matt. 5:10-12)
- It is odd to think of **being persecuted for our faith** in this day and age. It is even more odd to think of it as a **blessing**...

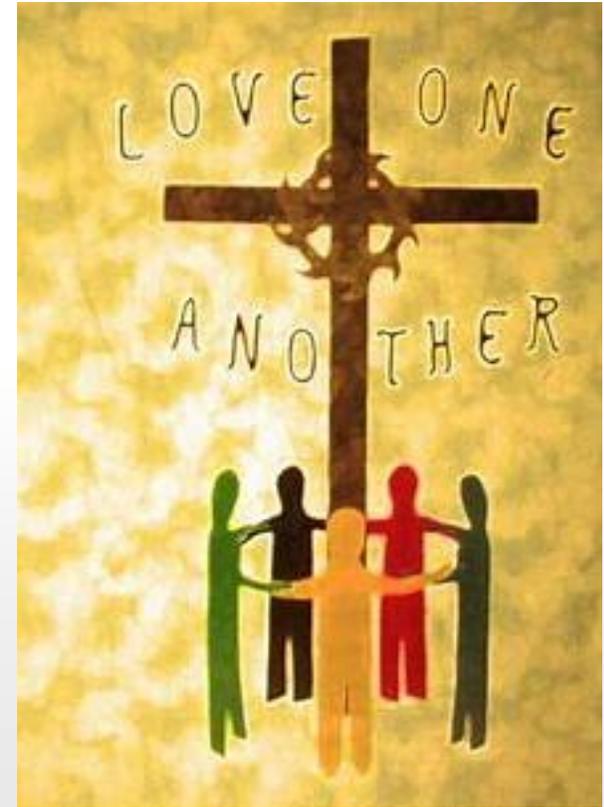


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- Why would Jesus warn the disciples about this? Even more interestingly, why did Jesus mention it after the teaching of His new commandment concerning loving one another? (15:17)
- Most people would rather return hate with hate. (ill: unfair)
- Instead Jesus wanted to remind us that the hatred of the world is actually toward Him and not really toward us directly, (John 15:18-21) since we belong to Jesus.
- (John 1:5; 10-11) They do not want the Light.

THE CONTRADICTION

- This is odd: the more we are like Jesus (Eph. 5:1-2), the more we will love one another. But the more we are like Jesus, the more the world will hate us. Since it is contrary to what we may expect (we expect love in return when we love our neighbor) this is WHY Jesus wants us here.
- Even if the love may not return, we should still love others. (ill: school)



LEARN FROM JESUS



- How should we respond? How can we love when love may not return to us? How did Jesus do it?
- Jesus knew they didn't know what they were doing. (John 16:3)
- They were **ignorant** in their sins. (Rom. 1:21-22; 1 Cor. 2:7-9)
- For that Jesus forgave those who crucified Him. (Luke 23:34)
- Stephen shared the same heart with Jesus. (Acts 7:60)

FROM EMPATHY TO LOVE

- Jesus warned us not to “fall away.” (16:1) (means to stumble or entrap) Sadly many of us have stumbled because we cannot forgive, trapped by hate or bitterness.
- (ill: teenagers) I was a fool when I was young (still is sometimes 😊). Will you forgive yourself if you meet “yourself”?
- When we acknowledge their actions are out of **ignorance**, we can find **empathy**, and empathy can lead to **compassion**, and compassion can lead to love.

CONCLUSION—LOVE IS THE ONLY WAY

- It is what you represent that they hate, not your love to them.
- Therefore we should never cease loving the people around us. Love is still the only way forward. (1 Peter 4:7-8)
- God truly does **ble**ss all that are persecuted in His name. (Matt. 5:10-12)
- Therefore let us seek God's **wisdom** to turn empathy to love.