

SERMON NOTES

Reason to Believe: Sure Footed Followers
John 15:18-16:4

Jesus is walking and teaching. His betrayal and crucifixion are drawing closer and closer with each step toward the Garden of Gethsemane. Making the most of each minute, Jesus continues to pour truth and encouragement into His disciples. He has already dealt with the believer's relationship to Christ (15:1-11), and the believer's relationship to other Christians (15:12-17). Now Jesus assures them they can remain faithful even though the world would hate them. He is clarifying their relationship to the world. Frankly, they would be hated by the world, and so will you. However, there is good news, God's gift of the Holy Spirit would both equip and enable the disciples to walk faithfully in the face of great opposition.

Key thought: You can rely upon the Holy Spirit to help you remain faithful even when facing great opposition!

1. REALITY: The world hates true followers of Jesus Christ. (15:18; 16:2-3)

2. REASON: The world hates you because you represent God. (15:19-25)

- The world hates Christians because the world hates Jesus. (15:18)
- The world hates Christians because we are different. (15:19-20)
- The world hates Christians because the world rejects God. (15:21)
- The world hates Christians because Jesus exposes their sin. (15:22)

3. REMEMBER: The Holy Spirit will equip and enable you to overcome the world! (15:26-27)

- The Holy Spirit confirms. (15:26, the Spirit of truth)
- The Holy Spirit gives confidence. (15:26, "He will testify about me")
- The Holy Spirit gives courage. (15:27, "and you will testify")

"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but take courage; I have overcome the world." *John 16:33*