"The Encouragement of Hatred"
John 15:18-25

C.I.T.—Jesus gave encouragement to His disciples concerning persecution from the lost world.
C.I.S.—We should look to Jesus for our encouragement when persecuted for our faith.
Purpose—I want to encourage our people to stay faithful in the midst of persecution.
Introduction—Samuell Harris hit with a rock while preaching from a horse; Texas evangelist preaching with a rifle on the pulpit

I. ***An Expectation of Hatred***. vs.--18
   a. Hates—misew—to hate or disdain for no good reason
   b. World
      i. Kosmos—organization
      ii. This is humanity organized against God.
      iii. This organization is led and ruled by Satan.
      iv. It is followed by those who have rejected Christ, lost world.
      v. It operates according to different priorities and rules.
      vi. The entire lost world is included in this organization that is opposed to Christ.
   c. Hatred would show up in persecution.
      i. The Jews had already excommunicated His followers.
      ii. Saul arrested/executed Christians.
      iii. Stephen was stoned.
      iv. 2 Timothy 3:12
   d. This hatred will lead to great discouragement among Christians.
   e. 1 John 3:13
   f. Illus.—Preparing to be hit rather than being blindsided.
   g. Application
      i. Since we know that it is coming, we should be prepared for it and not be discouraged by it.
      ii. How might this show itself?
         1. Making fun of you for your beliefs
         2. Being overlooked for promotions
         3. Outcast socially
         4. Verbal/physical abuse
      iii. We must know that as a believer in Christ we will suffer persecution and hatred and not let it discourage us from follow Christ.

II. ***An Explanation of Hatred*** vs. 19-25
   a. The world hates you because of where you fit.
      i. Of the world—belonging and identifying with the World
      ii. Chosen out of the world
      iii. We started as being part of the world, but when we were saved and chosen to serve Jesus, we were plucked out of the world.
      iv. That may be where we originated, but it isn't where we belong.
      v. Illus.—Student saying, "Don't tell them you are a Christian."
      vi. Application
         1. You are different and set apart.
         2. You do not conform to the world.
         3. This anger the world, because it wants control and conformity.
   b. *The world hates you because of whom you follow*.
      i. Servant is not greater than his master.
         1. Jesus taught this when he washed their feet.
         2. The master is someone that they were to follow and emulate.

3. In this case, we are to follow Jesus, identifying with Him publicly, and engaging in the mission He gave us.

ii. The way the world treats Jesus is the way that it will treat you.
1. Persecution and obedience.
2. Regardless of how they responded, either rejection or acceptance, they would also respond to His follows.

iii. They heard His Word and rejected Him.
1. He came and spoke.
2. He came and did works/miracles.
3. He showed up personally, teaching, and performing miracles to prove that He was God's Son.
4. Still they did not know Him.
5. Their lack of knowledge wasn't because they didn't hear, but because they rejected Him in their sin.

iv. John 7:7; Luke 10:16; Acts 22:8

c. The World hates you because of Jesus.

d. Illus.—Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House, Christian

e. Application
i. As a Christian, your very existence bring hatred.
ii. Your presence, message, and lifestyle sheds the light of Jesus in their lives.
iii. In the same way that rejecting Jesus is rejecting the Father, rejecting you is rejecting Jesus.
iv. Knowing that it isn't your fault is encouraging.

III. An Exultation of Hatred

a. Opportunity for Blessing—**Matthew 5:10-12**
b. Opportunity for Assurance—**Acts 5:41**
c. Opportunity for Witness—**Luke 21:12-14**
d. Opportunity for Ministry—**John 15:17**

Conclusion

- Felix Manz—On January 5, 1527, Anabaptist leader, Felix Manz was arrested, tried, and sentenced to death for preaching salvation by grace through faith and believers' baptism. He was tied up and placed in a boat and taken to the middle of Lake Zurich—he witnessed to the gathering crowd and preached from the boat. They were preparing to baptize him to death. While they were preparing him, a voice could be heard above the crowd shouting: "Be Faithful." It was the voice of his mother. -- on January 5, 1527 in Lake Zurich Felix Mans was baptized to death.
- From that day forward the Anabaptist movement spread like wildfire.
- I hate that we will endure hatred from this world.
- But we should not be discouraged, we should be encouraged as we face this hatred.
- Prayer of Thanksgiving

"The Encouragement of Hatred"
John 15:18-25

I. An E_____ of Hatred
II. An E_____ of Hatred
III. An E_____ of Hatred

“The Encouragement of Hatred”
John 15:18-25

2 Timothy 3:12 In fact, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

1 John 3:13 Do not be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.

John 7:7 The world cannot hate you, but it does hate me because I testify about it-- that its works are evil.

Luke 10:16 Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. And whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

Acts 22:8 "I answered, 'Who are you, Lord? ' "He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, the one you are persecuting.'

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. [11] "You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. [12] Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Acts 5:41 Then they went out from the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to be treated shamefully on behalf of the Name.

Luke 21:12 But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you. They will hand you over to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. [13] This will give you an opportunity to bear witness. [14] Therefore make up your minds not to prepare your defense ahead of time, [15] for I will give you such words and a wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.