

John 15:22-16:4 ESV

²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin,^[a] but now they have no excuse for their sin.²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

²⁶ "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

16 *"I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.*

Discussion & Reflection Questions

- 1) Facing Disillusionment - The sermon begins with the story of a missionary who became deeply discouraged after 11 months, concluding that "God hasn't done anything." Have you ever experienced a season where you felt like your prayers or ministry efforts hitting a "brick wall"? How did that affect your faith?
- 2) Not Taking Rejection Personally - The central problem in the world is its rejection and hatred of Jesus, not of us personally. How does shifting the focus from *our* performance to *the world's response to Jesus* change how you view difficult relationships or failed attempts at sharing your faith?
- 3) The Comfort of God's Sovereignty - In discussing verse 25, "They hated me without a cause," the sermon highlights that unbelief does not catch God by surprise. He is sovereign even over rejection. Does this truth bring you comfort, or do you find it difficult to accept? How does it relieve the pressure of feeling like someone else's salvation is entirely on your shoulders?
- 4) Redefining Success vs Timeline - The missionary's discouragement came from unrealistic expectations of how life really works and judging success by an immediate

To Keep You from Falling Away (John 15:22–16:4a)

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timeline. How do we fall into the trap of measuring God's faithfulness strictly by visible, immediate results? What does a "successful" witness look like according to this text?

- 5) Gospel Trojan Horses - The sermon describes believers being scattered into jobs, schools, and neighborhoods on Monday morning as "gospel trojan horses." What does this imagery mean to you? How does it change the way you view your routine interactions tomorrow morning?
- 6) Being vs Doing – The sermon emphasizes that being a witness is not just a telemarketer-style task we *do*, but rather who we *are* through the Holy Spirit. In your daily life, what is the practical difference between doing evangelism and being a witness?
- 7) Preventing the Death Spiral - Jesus says He speaks these hard truths to "keep you from falling away" (John 16:1) so that we do not enter a death spiral of focusing only on what is broken. When you find yourself focusing on the "dead ends" of life, what specific truths or promises from God's Word do you need to actively remember to anchor your soul?