HATED BUT NOT ALONE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

John 15:18-16:4 - Sermon Outline and Notes for Meditation:

JOHN 15:18-16:4

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1	Rea the	ad John 15:18-20. In light of where this passage stands in relation to the rest of the Gospel of John, what does Jesus want to talk about in ese verses and why do you think he chooses this topic? What principle does Jesus introduce in v. 20? What does he mean by it?
2	nar	ad John 15:19-20. Is persecution something you ever think about? What do you know about how the global church is suffering for Jesus' me? If Jesus says we are to expect trouble in this world on account of him, what does that say about us if we rarely, if ever, have experience y troubles because of Jesus?
	Q	Take some time to Google "Christian persecution" and see how this theme has relevance today. Perhaps jot down some of the areas of wors affliction. Maybe read a modern Christian martyr's story and be prepared to share it with the group.
3	Rea	ad John 15:21-25. What does Jesus say about why the world will persecute his followers?
		Does anything stand out about the kind of language Jesus uses to describe the relationship between the world and followers of Christ?
		In v.24, Jesus indicates that those who persecute him are guilty of a specific sin. What is that sin?
4	Ma bet	nen we get to heaven, no one will ever regret having lived for Jesus while we were on the earth. We'll only regret that we didn't do more artin Luther puts it this way, "When we shall live in that day, we shall look with wonder on one another and say, 'Shame, that we were not deter cheer, braver, stronger, and more joyful, to trust Christ, and to endure all tribulations and crosses and persecutions, since this glory is sat."
	•	Reflect on Luther's quote – what thoughts first come to mind after reading it?
		Read (2 Corinthians 4:16-18) and summarize Paul's view of persecution and suffering. Do you often share that perspective? If not, how do Paul's words challenge or convict you?

5	Read John 15:26-27. What is the Holy Spirit called by Jesus? Why does Jesus give him that title? What do the mission of the disciples?	es it say his role will be as it relates to		
6	Read John 16:1-4a. What does Jesus say is the reason he has shared all these things with them? What sta	nds out to you about this section?		
	Ø Do you believe the Holy Spirit empowers us in times of mission in general and persecution in specific? (Output Description of the Holy Spirit empowers us in times of mission in general and persecution in specific? (Output Description of the Holy Spirit empowers us in times of mission in general and persecution in specific? (Output Description of the Holy Spirit empowers us in times of mission in general and persecution in specific? (Output Description of the Holy Spirit empowers us in times of mission in general and persecution in specific.) Description of the Holy Spirit empowers us in times of mission in general and persecution in specific. Output Description of the Holy Spirit empowers us in times of mission in general and persecution in specific. Output Description of the Holy Spirit empowers us in times of mission in general and persecution in specific. Output Description of the Holy Spirit empowers us in times of mission in general and persecution in specific. Output Description of the Holy Spirit empowers us in times of mission in general and persecution in the Holy Spirit empowers us in times of mission in general and persecution in the Holy Spirit empowers us in times of mission in general and persecution in the Holy Spirit empowers us in the H	Can you share any examples?		
•	Reflect on this statement of Brother Li, a persecuted pastor in China, when asked what their church would be like without persecution: The Church would not grow and there wouldn't be revival. People will be caught up with pleasure and the current trends of society. The preacher's love for God and his flock will decrease – they will not have clear vision. The Chinese Church has grown and survived because of persecution. We don't like persecution, but every time it comes we grow and we fall in love with God more. Persecution is from God's mercy, it is His inoculation against decay and destruction. No persecution means we will have lukewarm Christians with weak spiritual lives. In fact, if there is no persecution, the number of churches in China would rise but their devotion would fall.			
8	How can we better live out as individuals and (maybe) as a community group the following passage? Hebrews 13:3, "Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body." How can we encourage one another if we have personally experienced persecution, or even more importantly, have not?	PRAYER REQUESTS		
	Read (Hebrews 11:36-38) and reflect on your heritage of faith and what it cost those who decided to live righteously for Christ.			