

BECAUSE OF ME

As preached on Sunday, May 31st

Read: John 15:18-27

1. Have you ever been the victim of a “bait and switch” scam? What was it and how did it feel to be fooled in that way?
2. When Jesus calls us to follow him, there is no bait and switch involved. He tells us in v.18 not to be surprised if we are hated. And the Apostle Paul says in 1 Timothy 3:12 that *“everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”* How do you feel about this?
3. There are some churches and church leaders who preach a “health & wealth” prosperity gospel, the idea that if you believe in Jesus he’ll meet every one of your needs and desires. How does that idea match up with what Jesus teaches in this week’s passage?
4. Who is it that hates us? Why do they hate us? (Hint: we talked about 4 reasons in the sermon)
5. In the midst of all of this talk of hatred and persecution, Jesus mentions a particular task that he needs us to be doing. What is that task? What is our part and what is the Spirit’s part?
6. Take a few minutes to read through 1 Peter 4:12-19. Is this passage encouraging or discouraging for you? Why?
7. How does taking Jesus at his word in this week’s passage help you to see your life circumstances in a different light? In what ways can you identify with his suffering?
8. There are Christians in other parts of this world who face imprisonment and death because of their faith in Jesus. For most of us, our “suffering” is mild in comparison. Please take a few moments to remember these brothers and sisters in Christ this week asking God to give them his strength and his peace as they suffer in his name.