



## COMFORT FOR TROUBLED HEARTS "Comfort Through Trials" John 15:17-16:4

No. 2121

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Jesus talked straight to His disciples. Not only did He tell them He was leaving them, but He also said that life would be very difficult. But they were not to roll over and play dead; they were to be witnesses in a hostile environment. To enable them, He promised to send the *Parakletos*. The situation has not changed.

### I. Encountering Hostility.

- A. What is meant by the world? (*Kosmos*)
  - 1. The universe, the creation. Acts 17:24
  - 2. The abode of humanity. John 11:27; 13:1
  - 3. The fallen creation. John 15:18
- B. Christ's attitude to the world.
  - 1. He was coming into the world. 1:9
  - 2. He had made the world. 1:10
  - 3. He came to take away the sin of the world. 1:29
  - 4. He came not to condemn—but to save the world. 3:17
  - 5. He came to give light to the world. 3:19
- C. The world's attitude to Christ.
  - 1. It did not receive Him. 1:11
  - 2. It preferred darkness to light. 3:19
  - 3. It hated Him. 15:18
- D. The world's attitude to the disciples.
  - 1. It is transferable. 15:18
  - 2. It is predictable. 16:2
  - 3. It is inevitable. 16:4
  - 4. It is inexcusable. 15:22

### II. Understanding Hostility.

- A. Because disciples are chosen by Christ. 15:19
  - 1. So they don't "belong" in the world.
- B. Because disciples serve like Christ. 15:20
- C. Because disciples teach like Christ. 15:20
- D. Because disciples identify with Christ. 15:21-25
  - 1. The world, having rejected revelation...
  - 2. ...is left in the dark and doesn't know God...
  - 3. ...so they hate in ignorance and gratuitously.

### III. Addressing Hostility.

- A. Don't be surprised by it. 16:1
- B. Don't be intimidated by it. 15:27
- C. Don't forget the Spirit of truth. 15:26

**Points to ponder:** Have I encountered hostility that was my own fault? Have I been surprised by hostility? How has the Spirit helped?