

7. Most of the world will “hate,” or reject, Jesus; however, there will always be some people who “obey” his teaching (15:20). What does obedience to Jesus’ teaching look like?

Jn. 6:29; 12:44


Jn. 14:1

Jn. 10:27; 12:26


Jn. 15:4–5, 9b

Jn. 15:12

8. Look again at John 15:22–24. Sin has existed from the early days of humanity. Nevertheless, Jesus’ presence on earth and teaching of the people brought out in them the gravest sin of all, namely, their rejection of the grace and truth and light God offered in his only begotten Son, his last and greatest revelation. In rejecting the Son, the people rebelled against the Father, embraced the darkness fully and finally, and brought on themselves the ultimate guilt.¹

How is rejecting Jesus more dangerous than being hated or persecuted by the world? (Jn. 3:36; Mt. 10:28; *Heb. 2:3–4)

9. In the midst of telling the disciples about the suffering they will face, Jesus promises to send the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, to be with them after his departure.

a. What will the Counselor do? (15:26;  Lk. 12:11–12)

b. Jesus also calls the Counselor “the Spirit of truth” (15:26). How is this title appropriate for the work he will be doing?


10. Why do you think the disciples might be tempted to “go astray” (16:1) after Jesus’ departure?

11. Jesus tells the disciples about the coming persecution and about the Holy Spirit. How will knowing all of this in advance help the disciples weather the temptation to fall away? (15:26; 16:4)

12. At first, much of what Jesus says in this week’s passage seems sobering, and not terribly encouraging.

a. How is it sobering for you?

b. What encouragement do you find?

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

¹D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1991), 526.