

Here Comes Trouble

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | John 15:18–16:33

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group and family discussion or for personal reflection. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. *Soli Deo Gloria*.

For a brief recap, the sermon's title was: **Here Comes Trouble**

Main Points were: (1) Hardship Will Come; (2) There's A Helper; (3) It'll Turn Out

Ice Breaker

What's your favorite conspiracy theory?

Understanding the Text in Context

Read the text together, noting the sections that correspond to the sermon points: John 15:18–16:4a (*"Hardship Will Come"*); John 16b–15 (*"There's a Helper"*); John 16:16-33 (*"It'll Turn Out"*)

What does "the world" mean in this passage? How should we expect our relationship with "the world" to turn out? How does Jesus fit into the discussion about "the world"? How does James 4:4 reinforce this?

Jeff explains that the Greek word translated "helper" carries the meaning of an advocate, particularly in a legal setting. How has the Holy Spirit guided you through unfamiliar situations?

Read Romans 8:18; 22-23. Jesus compares the disciples' coming sorrow and joy to a woman experiencing childbirth. How is our anticipation for Jesus' return similar to this?

Connecting to Jesus and His Gospel

“A servant is not greater than his master” (John 15:20). Since the world persecuted Jesus, then we know they will (and have) persecuted the apostles. Why should we — or why should we not — expect persecution also? Why is Jesus the central issue about persecution, both then and now?

How did the apostles go from those who scattered in the face of opposition (John 16:32) to those who were willing to be martyred for Christ? How does “joy” fit into the story (see John 16:20, 22, 24, 27)?

How does Christ’s victory over the world help us today in times of tribulation (John 16:33)?

Living Out the Truth

Where are you tempted to hide your relationship to Jesus because it would be easier to? What’s one area in your life where you could be bold with your faith?

An old saying states: “Tell me who you are fighting, and I’ll tell you who you are.” How does this shed light on the reality that Christians are hated by “the world”? How does it encourage you in the “fight” for righteousness, for Jesus?

Are there any situations in your life where you are relying on your own strength and wisdom instead of trusting the Holy Spirit’s help? What would be the next right step?

In the midst of difficulty, how does the promise of Jesus’ victory change the way that we deal with sorrow and pain? Read Romans 8:16-18; 22-23; 26 for encouragement.

Pray together. Pray for one another. Pray for those who may be “hating” you on account of Christ.

Parenting Moment and Family Focus

Jesus reminds us that He has overcome the world. How can we help one another remember God’s promises when our family experiences disappointment, conflict, or uncertainty?

Jesus calls us to live differently from the world. In what ways does our family reflect Jesus to others? Where might we need to make changes?

Further Study

For more on Persecution and the Triumphs of the Gospel:

- [Read](#) or [watch](#) “Dispatches from the Front” for encouraging stories from today’s world.
- Read or listen to the Book of Revelation in one sitting.
- Memorize any of the verses mentioned from Romans Eight: 16-18; 22-23; 26.

About the Holy Spirit:

- [10 Key Bible Verses on the Holy Spirit](#)
- [10 Reasons to Study the Holy Spirit](#)

To dig deeper:

- Read the [Inexcusable Sin](#) about John 15:22.
- Read [10 Key Bible Verses on Joy](#).
- Read [What does “you have asked nothing in my name” mean \(John 16:24\)?](#)
- Read or listen to [Three Motivations to Pray](#).

In your John Study Journals, look ahead to next week’s sermon and text for John 17:1–26: “Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing,” “Keep Them to Sanctify,” and “Given for Unity”