

## Brace Yourself

➤ Brace yourself for \_\_\_\_\_  
from the world

- For \_\_\_\_\_ (15:18)
- For being \_\_\_\_\_ (15:19)
- For \_\_\_\_\_ (15:20)
- For \_\_\_\_\_ (15:20)

➤ Brace yourself with the \_\_\_\_\_

- I'm not the \_\_\_\_\_ (15:18-20)
- Jesus wasn't even the \_\_\_\_\_ (15:21, 23-24)
- The world's hatred is \_\_\_\_\_ (15:25)
- \_\_\_\_\_ has come. We're in good company! (15:26-27)
- The world is sincerely \_\_\_\_\_ (16:1-4)

## Discussion questions from the message.

1. What happens when something happens to you that you are unprepared for or caught off guard? What is an example of this in your life? How did you respond?
2. Read John 15:18-25. What is Jesus preparing His disciples for?  
What are some ways believers in our culture face being hated for Christ?  
What are some of the things He says to prepare them for what is coming?  
What is the benefit of this preparation?
3. What kind of implications should Jesus' words to his disciples have on us about how the world will treat us as we think about . . .
  - the influence of Christian morals on government policies?
  - fair treatment of Christians in court? In the workplace?
  - interaction with unsaved family members and friends?
  - standing on God's Word when others say it contradicts science (ex: creation-evolution)?

How do Jesus' words help us as we consider how we will likely be treated in a culture that is growing increasingly negative toward believers?

Knowing that the world hated Jesus for speaking truth and that they will likely hate us too, how publicly do you think Christians should be in speaking up about moral issues such as gay marriage, sex outside of marriage, and transgender issues?

How can Christians take a stand on moral issues without making it sound like Christianity is just about behavior? Or is silence in the public arena a better response? Why / why not?

How did the disciples in Acts 5:40-42 see suffering for Christ? What was their attitude? What did they do in response? What does this teach us?

4. Read John 15:26-16:4. What has God done to strengthen us when facing persecution? Why does Jesus say He has told us all this (16:1)?  
How do you suppose people can be so deceived that they think killing others is serving God? (Consider Saul/Paul).  
Why do John 17:21 and 16:3 say these people do what they do? How should this impact our response to those who treat us negatively? (Consider Jesus' response in Luke 23:34 and Stephen's response to being stoned in Acts 7:60). They don't know the Father or Jesus – this should grieve us and give us a burden for them!

16:1 -- What truth do you need to remember most from all this so that you don't fall away from Christ when the world hates you?