

Hi, I'm Marty McKenzie with His Love Ministries. Welcome to the Least of These Podcasts. We reach out to those the world has forgotten. If you'd like to know more about us and how you can donate to help us fulfill our mission, go to hisloveministries.net. Thank you very much and God bless you. I'll trust Him when my sleeping days shall end Beautiful life with such a friend Beautiful life Eternal joy is my friend. Amen. Jesus is all the world to me. And we'll sing one more at the end today and we'll just go ahead and do our sermon today. Going to be back in John chapter 15 and maybe we'll finish it in the next couple of weeks. I guess it'll be two weeks from now. But we're going to be back at John chapter 15. We're going to start verse 18 today and remember Jesus and the disciples are up in the upper room. Jesus is telling them that if they keep his commandments and that he will send a helper and that he's going to have abundant life and love one another and we're going to do the things that he wants us to do. Now we get to the fun part today when Jesus begins to tell them in verse 18. He wants to tell us that we're not going to be liked very well sometimes if we know the Lord. Actually, he says we're not going to be liked at all, we're going to be hated by the world. And he says in verse 18, if the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would have loved its own, yet because you are not of the world, I chose you out of the world. Therefore, the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, a servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they

will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for my name's sake, because they do not know him who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates me hates my father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin. But now they have seen and also hated both me and my father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law. They hated me without a cause. So we want to talk about being hated today. That's a wonderful thing to talk about, but you know we're fighting for spiritual freedom, right? I was reading something this morning, I don't even know, I guess my mother wrote it or something, and it was talking about doing the greater work and the greater work, that prayer is not so that we can do the greater work, but prayer is the greater work. that there's a spiritual battle going on. We are to pray and to do those things. And the prayer is the battle. And we're in a battle for people's souls every single day. And the world, he says here, if the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you. So the world's going to hate those who believe in Jesus Christ because, guess what, they hate Jesus Christ. We've been talking about that. Everybody likes the Jesus that heals them. Everybody likes the Jesus that fixes their problems. Everybody likes the Jesus that does all the wonderful things, feeds them, fixes them, heals them. But when the Jesus of the Bible begins to tell them, you know, you can't live this way anymore. You've got to stop doing this. You've got to start doing that.

And starts putting his finger on their sin, that's when they get upset, right? The thing about it is, is I don't know where they came up with that Jesus from. But everybody has a Jesus of their own making. That's why we have so many religions today, right? It's because people have made up their own religions and they say, well my God does this, my God says I can do that, or my God says I can't do this, or my God says I can't do that. And now we worship the God of the Bible. And the God that said, this is the way I am. Don't get to make up your own God, but this is the way I am. He tells them, don't be surprised basically what he's doing. He's been talking about all these things that they're going to bear fruit, and they're going to have joy, and don't be troubled. Basically, he comes down to it. He says that if you do all these things, guess what? The world's going to hate you. And you know, here and there we see that and it hates us because it hates Jesus Christ. It doesn't like the Jesus of the Bible. Like I said, one of the ladies that helps me down at one of the nursing homes, Oceanside, one day she noticed that when I started preaching about having to change your life, she noticed that several people got up and walked out of the room. And she said, did you notice that? And I said, yeah. I wasn't going to say anything, but I did. I noticed. I've seen it many a time that people will walk out when you start talking about having to change your life. And Jesus loves us too much to leave us where we're at, right? He loves us too much. I mean, if you loved your children, I think probably all of y'all have children or have had children. You love them too much to let

them keep doing the bad things they do, right? And if you don't love them, the Bible tells us if we don't love our children, that we won't spank them. We won't do those things, but if we love them, we're going to discipline them, right? And that's what God does is He says, you have to do the right things. And so the world hates us because it hated Him. That's the first thing He tells us about hate. Then in verse 19, He says, that the world hates us because we're not like them. Look what he says. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you're not of the world, I chose you out of the world. Therefore, the world hates you. It says here, the world loves its own. In other words, it loves its own things. It loves itself. They love people who will do the things that they are out there doing. 1 Peter chapter 4 verse 4 says, with respect to this, they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you. Romans 12 verse 2 says what? Don't be conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. The world doesn't like us because we're not like them. If we were like them, if we went along with them, they would like us. I don't know if I've told you all that example. When I worked in the secular world, I one time traveled to Baltimore. And when I got out at the hotel, I'd gotten in the cab from the airport and I got out at the hotel. And the cab says, well, that'll be \$10. He said, I can make your receipt out for \$20 if you want me to. Basically, what he was going to do was he was going to make a receipt out for \$20. And I

could cheat my company. And I could give him a little extra. He'd make him a little extra. And I could pocket maybe \$6 or \$8. And he could get a couple extra dollars on his tip, right? And that's kind of, I guess, standard practice. And I said, no thank you, I appreciate it, but no thank you. But you know that's the way the world does. The world wants you to go along with them. And if you don't live like them, if you don't act like them, just the fact that you do right, And they do wrong upsets them. It really does. And I've seen that time and time again because we're different. I heard a story about the man that invented the first umbrella. And he stood out in the crowd so much and he looked so different from everybody else that they threw rocks and dirt at him. He had to take off because they didn't know what to think of that umbrella. But now everybody carries umbrellas today, right? But that's kind of the way we are. We stick out like a sore thumb. And when we don't live like other people, when we don't drink and party and do all the things that they do, then they just go, well, why don't you lie, cheat, and steal and do all the things that we do? And then they get upset because we make them look bad. They feel guilty because they know that we're doing right and they're doing wrong. And so it's a response of envy. It's a response of jealousy. It's a response of hatred. I guess if you're not hated, the Bible tells us Jesus said, woe unto you if all men speak well of you. Then you know what that means? That you probably don't have much of a testimony. I heard, I think it was John Wesley, that one time he was riding along and he was on his horse and he said, well Lord, I haven't been persecuted lately. What's wrong? And he was used

to persecution because he was trying to be a godly man. And he got down off his horse and some field or somewhere, and he got down and kneeled down and prayed, and this farmer saw him and said, hey, what are you doing? And threw a rock at him, he said, thank you, Lord. He says, I know I'm doing the right thing now that I'm being persecuted. I'm trying to pray to the Lord and do the right things. Because we don't live like them, because we don't act like them, the world hates us. And then look what he says, he says, but you're not out of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. They hate us because we were chosen by God and lived for God. The world hates us because what? We belong to Jesus Christ. Because he says, remember the word I said to you, a servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. So they hate us because we belong to Jesus Christ. They hate Jesus and I was trying to see the verse here but Paul talks about in Galatians that he bears in his body the marks of Christ. You remember what Paul said? I mean some people preach this health, wealth and prosperity gospel. But if you go read 2 Corinthians chapter 11 and hear all the stuff that Paul went through. He was imprisoned. He was beaten three times with stripes. He was beaten five times with rods. He was in peril of robbers. He was in peril of countrymen. He was in the sea a day and a night. He was all these things. He was mistreated because of wine. He was laughed at in Athens. He was mocked. He was stolen one time and left for dead. Now that's not health, wealth

and prosperity folks. That's living for Jesus and taking the brunt of it. Now most of us aren't going to get what Paul got. God said that Paul was going to suffer great things for Christ. And because he was used greatly, he had to suffer greatly. That's one of the things that one man said, that no man can be used greatly by God unless he suffers greatly for God. That he has to work on us and he has to change us. And sometimes he uses that persecution. And so Paul was mistreated. He was abused. They can't get to Jesus Christ, so what do they do? They take it out on us, right?

Paul said in Philippians chapter 3 verse 10, he says, I want to do anything I can to attain from the resurrection from the dead. In other words, I want to be different from everybody else. I want to look different than everybody else. Because of my testimony, he said, and I want to have the fellowship of his sufferings. You know, we don't like suffering, but you know that's the time that we are the closest to God. I don't know if you realize that or not, but that's the times that we're the closest to God is during those tough times when we cry out to Him and we're really close to God. If we could be as close to God all the time as we are when we go through hard times, then we'd be in pretty good shape. Jesus says in verse 20 again, remember the word I said to you, a servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. So what he was saying, if you go back to chapter 13 verse 16, He says, Most assuredly I say, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is he who was sent greater than he who sent him. And what he was talking about back then is service, because what had he just done? He had

just washed their feet, right? He had just washed their feet, and he was saying, as I've served you, as I've washed your feet, as I've done for you, you serve. But now he's saying here that we're being identified with him in suffering. And so he's applied the same principle in suffering that we're to serve each other and now we're to suffer with each other. And so we're going to be identified with Jesus Christ in our suffering. If Jesus suffered, I think we could suffer a little bit for Him. What does Romans 8.18 say? It says that the sufferings of this world will be considered as nothing compared to the glory which we'll have in heaven one day. That's what Paul said. At one other place, I remember he says it this way. He says, this is a momentary light affliction, which works to far more exceeding glory. That's what Paul said. It was a momentary light affliction. This man who'd been stoned, left for dead, beaten with stripes three times. And sometimes people didn't even live through that. That's, you know, they would literally beat you with those cat-o'-nine tails and they could literally expose your insides by ripping the skin and the flesh off your body. A lot of people didn't even lift one of those, much less three. And beat five times with rods in the sea a day in the night. And so Paul called that a momentary light affliction, which works a far more exceeding glory. Then he says, if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. And he says, basically, you know, sometimes people don't like to hear what we say. They don't like our word. They don't like what we say. But some people are going to hate us. But on the positive side, guess what? Some people are going to respond to the way we live. Some people are going to respond

to the way we act and talk, and they will trust in Christ because of our testimony. He says if they responded to His message, they'll also respond to us. I mean, Jesus said in Matthew 7 what? Broad is the way that leads to destruction. go in there. But narrow is the way that leads to everlasting life and few there be that find it. And so many will not hear but some will. Some will listen and some will trust. And then he says in verse 21, the world hates us because it doesn't know God. The world hates us because they don't know God. But all these things they will do to you for my name's sake. because they do not know Him who sent me." I heard a great message the other day about His namesake. For His namesake. And the guy just went through and found all the places where the Bible talks about His namesake. It is for God's glory, right? And if we're not living for His namesake, in other words, we're not living for His glory, we're not living so that He gets the honor, the glory, and the praise, what are we living for? Because the whole world is passing away, and the lust of it, but whoever does the will of God abides forever, right? And so they hate us because they don't know God. They don't know God. Man hates God. Men don't love God. Men don't know God, right? Look around the world. I hate to say it, but the bottom line is when these people are trying to worship God or claim they're worshiping God, Some of these movies, you go out in the deepest, darkest jungles and they're sacrificing animals or they're sacrificing people sometimes and they do all kinds of crazy things. They worship in the sun, the

moon, the stars. Romans 1.18 says that the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all unrighteousness. Because although they knew there was a God, they didn't glorify God, nor were they thankful but they worship the creature rather than the Creator. That God has revealed Himself through His creation and His eternal Godhead, His power is known. We know there's a God because what? because of the beauty, the order. We know that when I say this clock's here, that somebody made it, right? I mean, if I told y'all I'd throw a stick of dynamite out in the woods and it blew up and here was this building and all the rooms and the clocks and the lights and all that stuff, y'all would laugh at me. But this isn't even a gazillionth of the complexity of even our world, much less the universe and the stars and the suns and all the things that are out there. All the galaxies that we can't even fathom and some of them we can't even see. That we haven't even seen or explored. He says, they will do all these things because they do not know Him who sent me. People don't know God and you know sometimes we feel sorry for these people and we think, well you know everybody's going to get to God and everybody's worshipping God in their own way and just leave them alone. Getting to heaven is not like some big bicycle wheel. You know, and they all got these spokes, and all the spokes go to the center hub, right? And everybody's going to get to heaven and they're all going to get there their own way. That's not the way it works. Jesus said back in chapter 14 what? I am the way, the truth and the life and no one, no one, no one gets to the Father but by me. People that worship animals, people who think that they have to be baptized or do all these

other things to get into heaven, The Bible says, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. That's all you need to do. Trust in His name. Who is Jesus?

He is the one who died in our place, died for our sins, and there's no other way to get to heaven. Just get down on your knees like we were talking about earlier. Just get on your knees and just say, God, I can't do it. I can't get there on my own.

You're going to have to get me there if I'm going to make it.

and cry out to him and say, forgive me and save me because I come short of your glory. I'm a sinner. And the only way

I'm going to make it to heaven is if you give it to me. Because

I can't make it on my own. There's none righteous. No, not one. And then he brings that up in

verse 22. He says, if I had not come and

spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. In other words, he's talking

about a willful rejection. What Jesus did, what did Jesus

do? When He came to earth, He showed

them every miracle He could show them to prove that He was God.

I mean, that's what this whole book of John that we've been

in for, I don't know how long now, over a year and something.

We have looked at this book and the whole reason it was written

is that these signs were written, these miracles were the message

that we might believe Jesus is Christ and believe Him we might

have life in His name. And every time Jesus did a miracle,

He was saying He was God over nature, He was God over time,

He was God over distance, He was God over demons, He was God

over life and death, He was God over everything. He revealed

His total being by the way He showed them all the miracles.

And remember the Bible says that they willfully rejected Him. They didn't just reject Him because they didn't know who He was. I mean, what did they do? They attributed the works of Jesus to Satan. They said He had a demon in one spot. They said He was a deceiver in one place. They said all kinds of things about Jesus, and what did they finally do? They killed Him, right? Because what happened? They didn't want to lose their power, their prestige, their authority. They were popular, they were powerful, they were prestigious. They didn't want to lose that, so they killed the Lord of Glory. Jesus totally revealed Himself, and it says basically that that He had not revealed Himself so completely to them that they wouldn't have any sin. In other words, they'd have less sin. The Bible tells us in Acts 17.30, the times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent. I mean, before Jesus Christ came, the Bible says that God kind of winked at sin. It doesn't mean that he overlooked it, that people still didn't go to hell. They still had to trust in the Christ to come. But it means that he overlooked some of the things that were done. Because he knew Jesus was coming and Jesus was going to pay for all of their sins. And he was going to pay for all of our sins. And he kind of didn't I guess get on people's case quite as bad as he could or whatever because he knew Jesus was going to pay for all our sins. And so basically he says those times were overlooked. But he says now everywhere people are commanded to repent. And so basically what he's saying is these people have willfully rejected Jesus Christ and they

killed him in spite of everything they knew about him. Hebrews chapter 6 verse 4 talks about that. He says, For it is impossible for those who are once enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away to renew them again under repentance, seeing they crucify out of themselves the Son of God afresh and put Him to an open shame. You know, unfortunately, a lot of people go to church on Easter and Christmas, but they never trust Christ. And you know what that does?

That just makes them more responsible. Jesus said, to whom much is given, much is required. And I tell people all the time,

I said, you know, if you're in this service and you come to these things and you don't have any intention of trusting Christ, you're just making hell hotter for yourself. He says they have no excuse, because he totally revealed himself. I don't know if you've ever thought about that, but you know, if you watch a little bit of TV, ever watch any of the law shows, and you think about it a little bit or you read your newspaper and you see what people do to other people. The way they mistreat people.

The extent that people will go to hurt other people. I mean, people will literally sell people into prostitution, sell them into slavery, kill them, sell drugs, do anything in the world to them to make money. And it's because they don't have a savior. Because they don't know God.

The bottom line is, is those people, they don't know God. They hate God. They think that God is this cosmic killjoy. That he won't let them have any fun. But you can have way more fun living for Jesus than you can living for the world, that's

for sure. All you gotta do is look in the jails and the prisons and look in the graveyard and look at all these people that lived their lives and did all these wrong things and look where they ended up, look at all the problems they have. I mean, God gave us the law for a reason, right? I mean, if we live the right way, then the only problem we have is because we either mess up or don't do the right thing sometimes or because people mistreat us because they don't love God. But if we live for the world, we create our own problems. People hate God because He won't let them do what they want to do. But the way they want to live is not the right way to live, is it? Remember, if they hated Jesus, they're going to hate us. So don't be surprised when people dislike you because you're Christian. Don't be surprised when people talk about you, or don't hang out with you, or don't want anything to do with you. But you know what? It's okay, because one day, as the old song says, Romans 8.18 said, it'll be worth it all when we see Jesus, right? Those sufferings in this world are not worthy to be counted with the glory that we'll have in heaven. One day, we're going to have all the things that God promised us and gives us. But now we just have to bear with it and hang on to Jesus. Sometimes it's hard to hang on to Jesus with all the things that are going on and all the abuse and mistreatment and all the things that happen. But if we hang on to Him one day, it's going to be worth it all. If they hated Jesus, they're going to hate us if we know Him. So let's pray and then we'll sing one last song. We love you and we thank you for who you are and we just thank you that you did send Jesus and that you loved us so much that you gave your only son, that

for our sakes he became poor that we might become rich. He had nowhere to lay his head. He was mocked. He was spit on. He was mistreated. He was eventually whipped and beaten and hung on a cross and abused so cruelly, Lord. And we thank You that You allowed Your Son, that You God, came to earth and died on the cross so that we, just bio-wicked sinners, Lord, could go to heaven one day. So Father, we thank You. Lord, we know that the world hates You. And Lord, it's going to hate us.

Lord, help us to keep our eyes fixed on you, the author and the finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before you endured the cross, despised the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the Father forevermore. We thank you for that. In Jesus' name, amen. Hi, I'm Marty McKenzie with His Love Ministries. Please help us reach out to those the world has forgotten. Everyone we minister to is locked up in some way, shape, or form. Those in the nursing home facilities are locked up in bodies that do not work, in a wheelchair, or in a bed. We minister to children and youth who are locked up because of behavioral problems. Some have told us we want to have a real family because their parents have lost or given up custody of them. Other kids are locked up because they've committed crimes. We also minister to those locked up at the jails and the prisons, to those locked up in addictions to drugs, alcohol, depression, and suicidal thoughts, to those locked up in a variety of other things that keep them from becoming who Jesus wants them to be. He came to give us abundant life, joy, and set us free. And these people that we minister to are not free. Our desire is to show them whatever their background, no matter what they've done, to see how much

God loves them. We seek to help them receive forgiveness and freedom from their sin in Jesus Christ. We minister in the local area of Savannah, Georgia and surrounding Effingham and Chatham area. We have recently expanded our ministry to the Lexington, Columbia, South Carolina area. We do over 2,000 services every year. We hope and pray that you will support us in some way so we can continue our mission. Go to HisLoveMinistries.net and click on the Donate Now button or send it via regular mail to Post Office Box 1881, Lexington, South Carolina, 29071. We hope and pray that you will do that. Thank you and God bless you. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. John 8.32.