

Context

- 1] Jesus is having a last supper with His disciples before being crucified the next day
- 2] His final words are a warning of persecution and a promise of the Holy Spirit (15:18-16:33)
- 3] During this He quotes to OT – Ps 69:4 . *'They hated me without reason'* Let's turn to that first

Ps 69

- 1] It is a Psalm of David when he feels he is about to be overwhelmed by those who oppose him. He says in vs 1 –“Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck.”
- 2] This Psalm is quoted seven times in the NT Here in Ps 69:4, it says – *'more in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause'* – (John 15:25)
- 3] The Psalmist, like Jesus, is *'hated without cause'*, but UNLIKE Jesus, he spits revenge *'Let their eyes be darkened so they cannot see'* (23), *'Pour out your indignation on them'* (24) *'May their camp be a desolation'* (25) *'add to them punishment on punishment'* (27) *'let them be blotted out of the book of the living'* (28)

Nb Jesus is revealed in His Word in the Old Testament in the lives and through the mouths of sinful men. Therefore, when you read the Old Testament, as Jesus showed His disciples (Lk 24:27,32,45), look for glints of the Lord Jesus throughout it.

Intro**‘They hated me without reason’ (John 15:25; Ps 69:4)****Who are ‘They’?**

- 1] Jesus divides everyone into two groups

Cf wide is the road that leads to destruction... the gate is narrow... that leads to life (Matt 7:13,14)

Whoever is not with me is against me and whoever does not gather scatters (Luke 11:23)

Those who do not believe in Jesus and those who believe in Jesus (Jn 16:9; 17:20)

- 2] In John's Gospel

a) They refer to ‘the world’. That is

1) those who God loves and sent His son for

*God so loved the **world**, that He gave His only son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (Jn 3:16)*

2) those who don't know, but are yet to believe in Jesus

*“that the **world** may believe that you (the Father) have sent me (the Son) (Jn 17:21)*

b) As opposed to ‘Friends’

nb Jesus said ‘I have called you friends because all that I have heard from the Father, I have made known to you (15:15)

?Are you a friend of Jesus. You may say of someone ‘I have been in his company but I wouldn't say I was a friend’. I ask again - Are you a friend of Jesus. Those who believe in Him would say – I am!

They hated me ...Why did they ‘hate’?

- 1] The reason Jesus gives is

Nb The world hates me because I testify its works are evil (7:7)

I.e., I show up its sin

?don't you hate to be corrected? Don't you hate to feel small? Isn't it hard when someone else is perfect and you are so inadequate? Their being makes you feel so aware of your short coming. So inadequate. – Like being in the presence of Jesus x a million!!

If you feel like that before Jesus then - Fall down at His knees saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man" (Lk 5:8)

2] Examples from the life of Jesus of people hating Him

'the world' hated Jesus at His birth – Herod tried to kill Him (Matt 2:16) at the start of His ministry – his own towns folk tried to throw Him off a cliff (Lk 4:29) at his trial – the crowd shouted, 'crucify him' (Jn 19:15) at his crucifixion the rulers scoffed at him saying, He saved others, let him save himself if he is the Christ the chosen one of God' (Lk 23:35). They bitterly resented Him – they hated Him

'They hated me..' Who is 'me'

1] Me, is Jesus but there is more!

'When the helper comes whom I (Jesus) will send to you from the Father – the Spirit of truth' (26)]

*nb 'Me' Jesus, the Son, the Father and the Helper, The Holy Spirit – Father Son and Holy Spirit i.e., to hate Jesus is to hate His Spirit and His Father – it is to hate **God** Himself*

2] but more than that - to hate Jesus is to hate his disciples.

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you (18)

If they persecuted me they will persecute you (20b)

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me (Matt 5:11)

They hated me without reason – What does 'without reason' imply?

1] At Jesus' Trial even Pilate acknowledged that he was 'not guilty'

Why? (He said) What evil has he done? I found in him no guilt deserving death (Lk 23:22)

2] The writer to the Hebrews says that

Jesus was able 'to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect is without sin' (Heb 4:15)

3] He was without sin so that He could be our payment

The Apostle John records John the Baptist acknowledging Jesus as 'the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. (Jn 1:29)

The Apostle Paul says, "God made him who knew no sin to be sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor 5:21

In Old Testament terms he was 'the sacrifice without spot or blemish

Conclusion

1] Jesus quotes the Word of God in the Old Testament to show that God foreknew of His rejection by the world and was in complete control

2] For us? - Trust the God who is in complete control and has determined 'to work all things together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose' (Rmns 8:28)

3] Expect that, as Jesus is, so you might be hated for His namesake