

The War Zone

“ Understanding Today's Spiritual Battle - Part 1 ”

1. Jesus Predicted It vv. 18-20a

2. Don't Take it Personal vv. 20b-21



Grow Group Discussion Questions

A grow group is 8-16 people who get together weekly to study God's word and the previous Sunday's message. There is a time of discussion, support, encouragement, and learning how the message applies to daily life.

PCC uses the ESV (English Standard Version).

HOW DO I JOIN A GROUP?

To learn more or join a group, visit pacificcoastchurch.org/gg/ or sign up at the patio Info Kiosk.

Point #1

- Read John 15:18-20a. Why did Jesus warn His disciples about people hating them? Why was it a spiritual battle?
- How will every Christian experience this same struggle? What does it ultimately confirm? How does Point #1 help?
- In what way have you experienced this truth or not? Be specific. What does this reveal to you?

Point #2

- Read John 15:20b-21. What two responses to the Gospel did Jesus present? Why was this important to the disciples?
- In what way could they have misinterpreted the rejection that was ahead? How does Point #2 relate?
- How do you typically handle rejection or take things personally? How can Point #2 help you in the spiritual battle?

Daily Devotions

These are provided for mid-week personal spiritual growth. Prayerfully writing out your answers will help you experience real life transformation as you dig deeper into the spiritual truths of God's word and today's message.

A downloadable PDF of this document is also available each week at pacificcoastchurch.org/sermons.

MONDAY // Read John 15:18-20a, Matthew 10:24-25

- Why do you think Jesus warned the disciples about a spiritual battle that will take place?
- In what way will every Christian experience this same battle? What does it ultimately confirm?
- How does this warning change your perspective in how you view daily life and interaction with non-Christians?

TUESDAY // Read John 15:18-20a, 1 John 3:1-8, 1 Peter 4:1-4, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 12:1-2

- Why will growing in your walk with the Lord always be a spiritual battle? (i.e., invisible enemy)
- In what way does this reveal why Christians feel out of place being around non-Christians? Be specific.
- How do you feel when people disagree with your Christian beliefs? How does Jesus encourage you to stand strong?

WEDNESDAY // Read John 15:18-20a, Matthew 4:1-11

- Explain the three primary ways Satan tempted Jesus. Why would this have been a battle for Jesus?
- How did Satan essentially tempt Jesus to give into His feelings? What does this reveal about the spiritual battle?
- In what way can you be tempted to "fit in" to today's world? How will you better spiritually protect yourself?

THURSDAY // Read John 15:20b-21, Matthew 5:7, Mark 13:9

- In what way did Jesus highlight two different responses to the Gospel? How did this prepare the disciples for rejection?
- How could they have misinterpreted spiritual pushback? (i.e., taking it personally vs. spiritual battle)
- How do you typically handle rejection or take things personally? Why will you be blessed if you address this in your life?

FRIDAY // Read John 15:20b-21, Acts 4:1-4, 16:1-24

- What is the difference between hatred (John 15:18) and persecution (John 15:20)? Why is this distinction important?
- In what way did the disciples live out the warning in John 15:20b? How did Jesus' warning help them to respond?
- How does this make you feel when you see this type of spiritual rejection? How does this also motivate you?

SATURDAY // Read John 15:18-21, Ephesians 6:12, 2 Corinthians 4:2-6, Colossians 1:13

- In what way does the whole idea of a spiritual battle challenge the way you've been approaching your faith?
- How does it also change the way you view spiritual opposition and rejection? Give an example.
- What can a lack of spiritual opposition also reveal about your walk with Jesus? How can this help you today?

MEDITATION VERSE: ¹⁸*If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*
John 15:18-19